

Hafa Adai!

NMI may apply for \$2.1M grant to increase digital inclusion efforts. **PAGE 2**

Red Cross, partner agencies visit homes to Sound the Alarm. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

After a few hits and misses, the cross is mounted atop the peak of Mt. Tapochau in observance of Good Friday.

Gusts kept toppling Good Friday cross

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The traditional mounting of the over 7-foot-tall wooden cross last Good Friday was no easy feat this year as se-

verely strong winds buffeted and even toppled the cross a few times.

Last Friday, March 29, hundreds of community members—religious and non-religious alike—made the trek up

See GUSTS on Page 4

DUE TO RTTC'S SUDDEN RATE HIKE

'Economic chaos on Rota'

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An agent for a shipping company said the sudden rate increase the Rota Terminal and Transfer Company imposed for stevedoring services and equipment use at the Rota port will create "economic chaos" on Rota, with the action having an immense multiplier effect.

See ROTA on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

File photo of the Thomas Camacho Mendiola Commercial Seaport in Songsong, Rota. The seaport is also called West Harbor.

IN RESPONSE TO IPI'S MOTION FOR SECOND TRO CCC: IPI fails to show it will suffer irreparable injury

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In response to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion for another temporary restraining order to stay revocation proceedings, the Commonwealth Casino Commission argues that IPI fails to show it will suffer irreparable harm

should the commission proceed with its revocation proceedings tomorrow. Also, it says IPI fails to show it will likely win its case against the commission.

The CCC's first argument in opposition to IPI's motion for another TRO is that IPI fails to show it will suffer irreparable injury should it not

See CCC on Page 4

House OKs bill to allocate \$5.2M to pay for gov't retirees' 25% pension

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives fast-tracked the passage Thursday of a bill that will appropriate \$5.2 million of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities

See PENSION on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) presides over a session in the House chamber last Friday. One of the legislations that the House passed is a bill that will appropriate \$5.2 million of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the payment of 25% retirees' pension for all government retirees.



INSIDE



NATION

President Joe Biden's reelection campaign is raising gobs of cash. And it has an election-year strategy that, in a nutshell, aims to spend more—and spend faster.

PAGE 10



WORLD

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed a longtime aide and several advisers on Saturday in a continuing reshuffle while Russia unleashed fresh attacks overnight.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

Louis Gossett Jr., the first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar and an Emmy winner for his role in the seminal TV miniseries "Roots," has died.

PAGE 12



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

WASHINGTON—The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced Friday that the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands can apply to receive \$2,100,000 to empower individuals and communities with the tools, skills,

NMI may apply for \$2.1M grant to increase digital inclusion efforts

and opportunities they need to benefit from meaningful access to high-speed internet.

As part of the "Internet for All" initiative, a key component of President Joe Biden's "Investing in America" agenda, NTIA announced Friday the availability of more than \$800 million nationally in funding from the Digital Equity Act's State Capacity Program.

"President Biden is committed to ensuring everyone in CNMI and across America has access to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Commerce's work building high-speed Internet infrastructure is only part of the equation. Families in CNMI need the tools and skills required to make the most of that Internet connection, and that's the \$2.1 million opportunity we're announcing today. President Biden's digital equity initiative will make the promise of the Internet come alive for everyone in CNMI, no matter where they live or what their background is."

States, territories, and

Native entities will use this funding to begin implementation of their digital equity plans. The CNMI plans to use its funding to enhance the quality of life for CNMI residents by facilitating equitable access to reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet service, thereby unlocking social, educational, health-care, essential services, and economic benefits.

Through community collaboration, these digital equity plans outline a state or territory's approach to empowering communities with equitable access and opportunities to adopt a high-speed Internet connection and develop essential digital skills to fully participate in society and the digital economy.

The funding allocation was calculated based on a

formula defined in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. The formula takes into account the relative population of the state or territory (50%), the relative size of the covered populations residing in the state or territory (25%), and the comparative lack of availability and adoption of broadband (25%). (PR)

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Over 100 calls made to DPS 2 weeks ago

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety responded to over 100 calls two weeks ago, including 92 criminal-related incidents, 22 traffic-related incidents, and one distress vessel incident.

According to the police blotter dated March 17-23, DPS responded to a total of 115 calls and made 12 arrests.

The police blotter states that police responded to two assault incidents; six assault and battery incidents; three assault with a dangerous weapon incidents; three domestic violence

incidents; 50 disturbing the peace incidents; one criminal mischief incident; three criminal trespass incidents; five child abuse/neglect incidents; three burglary incidents; and 16 theft incidents.

As for traffic incidents, DPS said it responded to 10 car crashes; three auto parked vehicle incidents; three auto hit-and-run incidents; one reckless driving incident; three driving-under-the-influence incidents; and two auto fixed object incidents.

DPS boating safety responded to one distressed vessel incident.

As part of DPS' goals, it is

sues weekly police blotter reports that detail the number of reports made in the last week, what incidents were reported, and how many arrests were made in that week.

DPS spokesperson Fred Sato previously said the numbers provided based on the blotter reports are calls made to DPS and responses of its officers.

"All active criminal complaints are taken, then forwarded to our Criminal Investigation Bureau. All traffic-related incidents, including fatality reported crashes, are forwarded to our Highway Patrol Investigation units," he said.

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www.dps.gov.mp



Red Cross, partner agencies visit homes to Sound the Alarm



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's nationwide Sound the Alarm Campaign pose for a group photo.

Volunteers of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, and Priority Care personnel canvassed the island of Saipan to install more than 100 smoke alarms in over 50 homes as part of the Red Cross' nationwide Sound the Alarm Campaign. Along with installing free smoke alarms in homes, volunteers also discussed typhoon preparedness and home fire safety with residents during the home visits.

Over 170 people islandwide have been served by the Red Cross this month. Since 2017, the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross, together with its partners, have installed over 1,100 smoke alarms and served over 1,700 people across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CNMI Republican Party announces NMI delegate primary

The CNMI Republican Party announces that the primary election to elect the Republican Party candidate for the NMI delegate position for the U.S. House of Representatives will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 2pm to 6pm on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The primary site for Saipan will be at the Garapan Central Park; on Tinian it will be held at the residence of Charlene Lizama; and on Rota it will be at the Rota Round House.

Republican Party members are reminded to bring a valid identification card to the primary site so they can cast their vote. There are two candidates who met the deadline by submitting their letters of intent to run as the Republican Party candidate: John Oliver Delos Reyes Gonzales and Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

For more information, contact Diego Benavente, president of the CNMI Republican Party, at (670) 285-5848. (PR)

"We are grateful to our volunteers, government and private partners who supported this year's Sound the Alarm event to help keep our neighbors safe from home fires," said J.D. Tenorio, Disaster Program manager of the Red Cross, NMI Chapter. "Home fires are a constant threat in our community, accounting for most of our disaster responses. Today's efforts will make a lasting difference to help save lives and protect those who are most vulnerable."

HOW TO SOUND THE ALARM IN YOUR HOME

When a fire breaks out, there can be as little as two min-



utes to escape safely. To sign up for a home visit from the Red Cross for fire safety and response education and to install a free smoke alarm, visit www.soundthealarm.org.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides comfort to victims of disasters;

teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members, and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volun-

teers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @Red-Cross. (PR)

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**A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information or interested applicants can email:
info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-date; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
Automated Teller Machine
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austerity days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@ptic.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #05-2024

Opening date: April 01, 2024

Closing date: April 19, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Attorney

UNGRADED

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robort@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

License fee hiked for pachinko slot machines, poker on Tinian

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law a local bill that will increase the local license fee for pachinko slot machines and poker machines on Tinian. He also enacted a local bill that will re-appropriate \$87,465 allotted under Tinian Local Law 20-07, and \$30,000 allotted under Tinian Local Law 22-04.

Palacios informed Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative

Delegation chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that House Local Bill 23-33 is now Tinian Local Law 23-10, and House Local Bill 23-40, Draft 1, is now Tinian Local Law 23-09.

Introduced by Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) on Dec. 27, 2023, House Local Bill 23-33 was unanimously passed on Feb. 28, 2024.

Under the bill, the current annual local license fee

of \$4,000 for each pachinko slot machine and each poker machine on Tinian will be increased to \$6,000.

San Nicolas introduced House Local Bill 23-40, D1 on Feb. 9, 2024. The TALD unanimously passed it on Feb. 28, 2024.

The bill re-appropriates funds identified as Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Second Senatorial District in the combined amount of \$117,465. Of this amount, \$87,465 are unspent

amounts allotted under Tinian Local Law 20-07, and \$30,000 are unspent amounts allotted under Tinian Local Law 22-04.

Under the bill, the \$117,465 are re-appropriated to the Office of the Mayor of Tinian: \$50,000 for the Tinian Veteran's Memorial Park; \$37,465 for the Youth Center Tennis Court resurfacing; \$15,000 for the San Jose Village Cemetery storage; and \$15,000 for the slaughterhouse generator, slab and installation.

GUSTS

From page 1

Mt. Tapochau in observance of Good Friday and, although the trek itself was pleasant due to the strong, chilly morning winds, the same conditions that made the trek up Saipan's highest mountain a breeze threatened the most important part of the occasion—the mounting of the over 7-foot-tall cross that weighed well over 100 lbs.

Members of the Catholic faith that were assigned to carry the cross up Mt. Tapochau were able to do so by 6:30am but the cross wasn't mounted in place until past 8:30am.

Many individuals who make the trek every year stated that this year's Good Friday observance took the longest as it took about two hours for the cross to be mounted in place.

The mounting of the cross was a nerve-racking scene as more and more men climbed

up the highest point of Mt. Tapochau to help put the massive cross in its place. As the men tried with all their might to get the cross up, continuous strong gusty winds prevented them from getting the base of the cross into its mounting place, with the cross toppling over about twice.

The first time the cross toppled over, it nearly took with it a couple of men. One could hear the horrified screams of the spectators as they witnessed the

cross fall, along with the men.

Fortunately, others were quick to action to ensure that the men and the cross didn't completely fall off the mountain's crag.

The second time the cross toppled over, it was already nearly fully erect but strong winds managed to push it over from the side.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ROTA

From page 1

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from RTTC.

Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, an agent for Seabridge Isla Shipping Company, wrote Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose C. Ayuyu on Thursday and urged him to immediately intervene and advise RTTC to hold off on the rate increase until CPA reviews the contract terms and condition relative to the overall RTTC operation, particularly the compliance of the published tariff.

Under the new proposed tariff, Crane use will increase from \$290 to \$500 per hour. The use of the 5-ton forklift

will go up from \$190 to \$325 per hour. The use of the 2.5-ton forklift will also increase from \$155 to \$275 per hour.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that Rota has not had a ship/barge service since Typhoon Mawar in May 2023 due to the repositioning of vessels in Guam. He said regular shipping services are just now resuming but this drastic increase in stevedoring services on inbound vessels hampers economic development on Rota, not to mention the exorbitant cost of goods residents already endure.

Dela Cruz said that, as he indicated to Ayuyu and CPA executive director Leo Tudela during their brief visit to Rota, RTTC's rate increase is not in

compliance with its published tariff in July 2010.

Dela Cruz said there is no record of an amended tariff to reflect the rate increases for services over the years.

The agent said the rate increases were not announced pursuant to the tariff requirement and that it also appears that such increases were not reviewed and approved by the RTTC board of directors. He said RTTC has had no elected board of directors for many years until now.

Due to this rate increase by RTTC, Dela Cruz said Seabridge is now assessing and notifying clients of the rate change because it will also impact their freight charges to reflect the overall increase by RTTC.

In fact, he said, Seabridge was planning to resume ship-

ping service on April 2, 2024 from Saipan to Rota, but because of this issue, they are holding back on an exact schedule as to when they can resume regular scheduled shipping services.

Dela Cruz said that during the course of his discussion with Ayuyu and Tudela, he asked Tudela if it is possible for CPA to issue an immediate notice to RTTC to refrain from effectuating the rate increase until a review of the rate is complete.

He said the rate increase is very high, averaging between 71% to 77%.

Dela Cruz believes that if this problem continues, Seabridge will have no choice but to discontinue shipping service to Rota entirely. He said this will be bad for the residents of Rota as well as the entire CNMI economy.

Over 600 participate in Easter Egg Hunt at JKPL



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dozens of kids joined the Easter Fun Day and egg hunt last Thursday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of families gathered for the Easter Fun Day at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe last Thursday to participate in a pre-Easter egg hunt, a mini-carnival and prizes that brought smiles to the faces of many children.

Hosted by the JKPL, the event was collaborative effort between the library, the First Lady Wella Palacios, Friends of the JKPL, and Bridge Capital.

With dozens of kids joining the egg hunt, the hunts were divided into four groups based on age, including a round for those with special needs. Coinciding with the multiple egg hunts, the event also featured food and drink vendors, carnival games of plinko, ring toss, corn hole, and indoor basket-

ball; not to forget a bunch of other fun activities such as best decorated eggs, arts and crafts, and face painting.

One of the mothers in attendance, Mary Jane Tenorio, said she is grateful for events like these she could bring her 2-year-old son.

"It's really good, especially for the younger ones. It gives them an opportunity to get out there socially, helping them to meet more kids, make friends while having fun. Also, events like these are really just a fun thing for the community to come out to enjoy. Really, really awesome."

She thanks the event's sponsors and host: "Thank you for putting this event together, and I hope you have more, so I can come, and bring my son."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PENSION

From page 1

Corp. for the payment of 25% retirees' pension for all government retirees.

With all 14 House members present at the session voting "yes," House Bill 23-104, House Draft 1 now goes to the Senate for action.

Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan) was not in the chamber when the voting took place. Reps. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan), and Thomas John D. Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent, but excused from the session.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) only introduced the bill that day. Many other representatives co-sponsored the legislation. No one objected to Attao's request to place the bill on the day's calendar for action.

Before the voting, Attao

stated that if they don't act on this legislation, 25% of retirees' pension will be reduced, if not suspended, by April 15, 2024.

"That's why we need this legislation passed. And we hope that when it gets to the Senate that they do the same thing," Attao said.

Attao also pointed out that these CEDA monies are actually local monies that belong to the Third Senatorial District, or Saipan and Northern Islands.

He disclosed that two weeks ago, both the House and Senate met with the administration, which informed them that the CNMI is in bad financial straits.

A lot of the retirees' 25% pension are being paid out using the reprogramming authority of the administration. Unfortunately, the funds are being depleted quickly, Attao said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC

From page 1

be granted a TRO.

"The Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act specifically authorizes the reviewing court 'to postpone the effective date of an agency action or to preserve status or rights pending conclusion of the review proceedings' when called for to 'prevent irreparable injury'. In addition, the statute provides that the reviewing court may 'set aside' agency action found to be contrary to 'constitutional right' or in excess of 'statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitation.' Essentially, the Act specifically authorizes the reviewing court to 'preserve status or rights pending conclusion'

of the proceeding. So, in the event plaintiff is not afforded a hearing compliant with the applicable due process requirements, the reviewing court can simply order a new hearing," said CCC.

In addition, the CCC argues that IPI fails to show it is likely to succeed in the merits of its case against the commission.

"The asserted causes of actions all arise from the same transaction—Commission Order 2021-002. The order suspended plaintiff's gaming license and ordered plaintiff to pay the \$18.65 million for the Annual License Fee and Annual Regulatory Fee, in addition to \$6.6 million in penalties. Moreover, plaintiff does not allege that it was prevented or did not have a fair opportunity to litigate the

issues or claims under each of the asserted causes of actions or raise affirmative defenses. Further, in the context of administrative hearings, affirmative defenses must be raised in an answer or alternatively at the agency hearing if the other party has notice or is not prejudiced. Plaintiff did not dispute and did not raise any affirmative defense for Enforcement Actions 2020-003, 2020-004, and 2020-005. Indeed, plaintiff utterly fails to offer a compelling reason as to why it should be allowed a second or third bite at the apple years later and *carte blanche* to prejudice defendants and the public interest," said CCC.

Last Wednesday, IPI filed another request for a temporary restraining order to stay the CCC's revocation pro-

ceedings, this time claiming its due process rights will be violated if not granted one.

It was only last Feb. 27 when U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Carter denied IPI's motion for a TRO against CCC, essentially allowing the commission to move forward with proceedings to revoke IPI's casino gaming license.

Tomorrow, April 2, the CCC is set to deliberate and vote whether to revoke or not IPI's casino gaming license.

Because of this, IPI, through lawyers Stephen Nutting and Michael Chen, is seeking a TRO to stay the proceedings and to preserve the status quo, claiming possible violation of its due process rights, "pursuant to Rule 65 (b) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure."

First Furniture Installer Bootcamp to start this month

Guam Community College Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development is now accepting applications for participants

to sign up for the first Furniture Installer Bootcamp. Training will commence on April 15, 2024, and end on May 25, 2024. The deadline

to apply is 5pm, Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Interested participants are encouraged to sign up early as seats are limited to 20 individuals. Successful completers will be offered employment with

M80 Systems.

Participants of the bootcamp will receive training in Introduction to Carpentry, NAVFAC-16, Heartsavers CPR/First Aid, WorkKeys, and Work Ethic.

Applicants must meet the minimum requirements:

- 18+ years of age
- Unemployed/underemployed
- Pass a background check for military base access
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Receive GCC Health Clearance

For inquiries call, CEWD at (671) 735-5640 ext. 5412 or email, workforce@guamcc.edu. To apply, schedule an appointment at Guam Department of Labor's American Job Center @ (671) 475-7000/01 or email ajc.training@dol.guam.gov. (PR)

GCC campus closed today for spring college assembly

Guam Community College will be holding its spring 2024 College Assembly to provide professional development training for all faculty, staff and adminis-

trators today, April 1, 2024 from 8am to 4pm.

The campus will be closed during this time. Postsecondary classes will resume as scheduled beginning at 4pm. (PR)

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.0-magnitude quake on Saipan

At 2:58pm on March 29, 2024, a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred at 261 kilometers northeast of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

4.4-magnitude quake near Asan-Maina Village

At 12:09pm on March 29, 2024, a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at 26 kilometers north-northwest of Asan-Maina Village, Guam.

Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

4.4-magnitude quake near Piti Village

At 3:37am on March 19 2024, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 107 kilometers north-northwest of Piti Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)



Northern Marianas College Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMC RFP 24-001

RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Northern Marianas College - Department of Financial Services Unit is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Proposal of a RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The bid packet may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Tuesday, March 26, 2024 between the hours of 9:00-11:30a.m. and 1:00-4:00p.m. Electronic packet may be requested to Odin C. Garces at ppmo@marianas.edu.

Bid Submission Due Date: April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/Odin C. Garces
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office



NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

INVITATION TO BID

NMTI-ITB 2024001 NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WORKFORCE CAREER TRAINING FACILITY

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech), located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Training Facility. This project is being funded by the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility Construction Project from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, EDA Project No. 07-79-07543.

This solicitation is in accordance with NMTech Procurement Regulations §3000-225. To also include provisions of NMTech Procurement Regulations, Section §3000-525 prohibiting kickbacks and gratuities, Section §3000-530 prohibition against contingent fees shall apply.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **Monday, March 18, 2024**, at the NMTech Procurement Office, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Monday through Friday from 8:30am-5:30pm only.

A **Pre-bid Conference** will be held at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Lower Base Campus, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00am ChST, March 26, 2024**.

All questions or inquiries regarding this ITB is to be submitted via email only to: procurement@nmtechcnmi.org, no later than **9:00 a.m., March 28, 2024, by email only**. All questions and answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the NMTech Procurement Officer no later than **10:00am ChST, April 18, 2024**.

Sealed bids for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original, one (1) hard copy and one (1) flash drive containing an electronic copy of the bid to the NMTech Procurement Officer located at the NMTI campus, Lower Base, Saipan, MP-96950 no later than **10:00 am, local time, Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024 and must be marked "NMTI-ITB 2024001"**.

NMTech reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

/s/Jodina C. Attao
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

Regenerative Agriculture WORKSHOP SERIES

Learn how to grow your own food!

Tuesday
Apr.
02

Tinian

Regenerative Agriculture
Workshop - NMC Tinian Site,
Room D, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday
Apr.
03

Tinian

Hands-On/ Installation
CREES San Jose Research
Station, 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Friday
Apr.
05

Rota

Regenerative Agriculture
Workshop - Puesto Grill Annex,
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday
Apr.
06

Rota

Hands-On/ Installation
Sinapalo Residence,
6:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(Map will be provided in Day 1 workshop)

Monday
Apr.
08

Saipan

Session 01:
Commercial Farmer/KAFPA Workshop
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort,
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saturday
Apr.
13

Session 02:
PSS Teachers and Administrators
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort,
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Friday
Apr.
12

Saipan

Regenerative Agriculture
Workshop - NMC Campus,
Room K-1, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday
Apr.
13

Hands-On/ Installation
As Teo Residence,
6:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(Map will be provided in Day 1 workshop)



TO REGISTER
please scan THIS
QR CODE!
bit.ly/REGENAGAPR24

Must be registered to participate!

Seats are limited!

For more information about the Regenerative Ag Workshop, please contact **Jesse Deleon Guerrero** at (670) 237-6876 or email jesse.dlguerrero@marianas.edu

Northern Marianas College CREES is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Northern Marianas College CREES is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. For more information or to request disability accommodation contact Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu



**CNMI GREEN
GROWTH
INITIATIVE**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 65Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vladimir Putin's biggest weapon is Western fear

For more than two years, Vladimir Putin's bluster, blame and threats of escalation have been driven by a singular goal: deterring and discouraging Western support for Ukraine. Worryingly, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is giving Putin reasons to think his tactics are working.

After stalling for months, Scholz rejected Ukraine's request for Germany's long-range Taurus missile system. The decision reflects Scholz's political sensitivities and an overarching German concern about escalating the conflict with Russia. Yet by sowing confusion and alienating allies, Scholz's handling of the matter is likely only to further embolden Putin and endanger Europe's security.

The Taurus missiles would doubtless boost Ukraine's ability to strike Russian supply lines and better defend against the kind of attacks on cities and vital infrastructure the country is again experiencing. Two similar long-range cruise missiles, the UK-supplied Storm Shadow and the French Scalp, have proved highly effective, notably in helping to take out about a third of Russia's Black Sea fleet. Limited numbers, and their high unit cost, have forced Ukraine to ration their use. The Taurus would boost that stock, offer comparable or greater range, and is a weapon that is highly resistant to detection and jamming attempts.

Scholz has contended that sending the missiles would require deploying German soldiers to Ukraine—a claim disputed by members of his own coalition and some in the military. A leaked conversation about the Taurus by German air force officers (held over an insecure Webex line and published by Russia), and Scholz's own loose lips, angered Germany's closest allies.

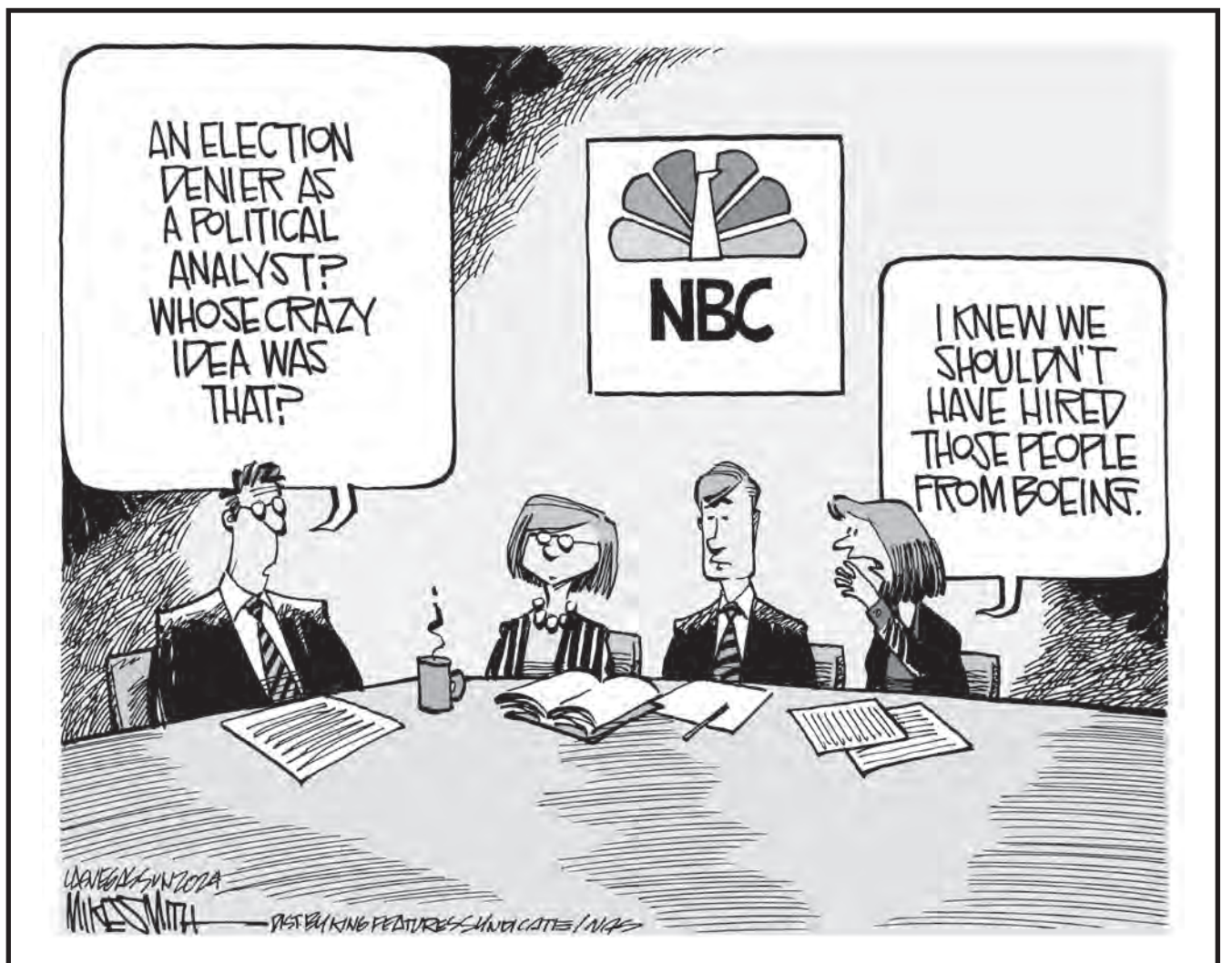
Meanwhile, Scholz has turned down British offers to send more Storm Shadows and backfill UK stock with Taurus missiles. That may be out of concern that giving away the weapons and data systems they rely on will erode the already diminished capabilities of the Bundeswehr, Germany's military. A recently released annual report on the state of the armed forces found alarming shortfalls in personnel and weapons, as well as a lack of leadership and training.

These deficiencies argue for greater focus on addressing German underinvestment in its military while finding ways to ensure Ukraine can get the sophisticated weapons systems it needs. But Scholz's fear of escalation has become the primary driver of German policy. Though the chancellor won plaudits for declaring a foreign-policy "zeitenwende," or turning point, after Russia's 2022 invasion, he's lately seemed more interested in boosting his party's flagging approval ratings by playing to pacifist streaks among segments of the German public.

In fairness, Scholz's government has also come a long way in the past two years. Germany provided Ukraine with Leopard tanks last year and is now the second-largest supplier of military equipment to Kyiv, after the US. It has welcomed over a million Ukrainian refugees. Germany announced another €500 million of military support this month, including artillery shells and armored vehicles.

That is to be welcomed. But given its size and geopolitical importance, Germany punches well below its weight. Deliveries of weapons systems are slow and too few. Among NATO members, it ranks only 11th in military contributions as a share of gross domestic product and

See VLADIMIR on Page 7



Raising Social Security's retirement age is the least bad option

By **KARL W. SMITH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. Previously, he was vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina.

Republicans in Congress have proposed a plan to shore up the Social Security Trust Fund, mainly by slowly increasing the retirement age from 67 to 69. Despite an immediate objection from President Joe Biden and top Democrats, raising the retirement age is crucial to the long-term health of Social Security.

As recently as 2020 Social Security took in more revenue than it paid in benefits. But the tables have turned, and the federal government expects the program take in \$1.17 trillion this year and pay out \$1.32 trillion. The \$150 billion shortfall will be made up by drawing down on the program's \$2.63 trillion trust fund.

That \$150 billion may seem manageable, but the problem grows larger each year. By 2032, the government expects benefits to exceed revenues by about \$500 billion annually. If we do nothing, the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted by 2034. If it gets to that point, the law requires a 23% cut in benefits across the board to ensure money coming into the program equals that flowing out.

No one wants to see benefits cut. The financial shock to seniors would be enormous. Yet, unless some radical measures are taken, cuts will be almost impossible to avoid. Raising the retirement age to 69 would bring the annual growth of Social Security costs in line with the annual increase in revenue by 2030, according to an analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

It's not like such a move would be unprecedented. When Social Security last faced an insolvency crisis, in 1983, Congress passed a bipartisan solution that included raising the retirement age from 65 to 67 in recognition of increasing lifespans. The same rationale remains true today. Between 1950 and 1980, the life expectancy of 65-year-olds increased by 2.5 years from 78.9 to 81.4. From 1980 to 2019, it increased an additional 3.2 years to 84.6.

Critics argue that raising the retirement age unfairly punishes the poor because the life expectancy of lower-income Americans has risen far less than that of higher-income Americans. However, life expectancy is only one part of the picture. What also must be considered is the total amount retirees can expect to receive.

Under the Republican proposal, the lowest-quintile group by income could expect to receive more in benefits than they pay in contributions, while it's the opposite for the highest-

quintile group. Consider an analysis of rising life expectancies by the Social Security Administration in 2009 that found the lowest-income quintile participating in the Social Security system saw their lifetime benefits boosted by about 12%. On the other hand, the highest-income quintile saw their lifetime incomes fall by 1.3%.

Moreover, this gap has grown over time. Over the past 25 years, the highest quintile has seen its net benefits shrink by 2.6 percentage points, while the net benefits for the lowest quintile have remained steady. So, even as higher-income Americans live longer, their Social Security return is declining.

There are a few reasons for this. First, Social Security benefits are taxable for higher income Americans. Second, much of the reduction in life expectancies for poor Americans is related to the opioid crisis, which primarily impacts Americans under 65. Finally, the program is fundamentally designed to provide a greater return on contributions from lower-income Americans.

Rather than raising the retirement age, Biden would seek to extend the life of Social Security through tax increases on those making more than \$400,000 a year, in effect repealing the Trump administration tax cuts for that group of Americans, a move that would boost revenues by about \$125 billion annually. Yet, that would still not cover even this year's shortfall, and would only extend solvency by a few years. In contrast, raising the retirement age would create savings that grow over time.

Stabilizing Social Security's finances has long been one of Congress's most challenging tasks. The sole major successful effort, the 1983 reform, was predicated on recognizing that longer lifespans necessitated an increase in the retirement age. Biden and leading Democrats must accept that the same reality holds true today even if it jeopardizes his re-election campaign. It's the least bad option.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is this the worst Congress ever? Let's count the ways

More than halfway through the current two-year Congress, the “lawmakers” there bring to mind the old schoolyard quip about slacker students: They’re really good at recess.

This pre-Easter week is the first of two that the House and Senate are taking off, though it seems like only yesterday they recessed for two weeks to mark Presidents Day. Lucky for them, members of Congress get recesses regardless of how well they perform—just like kids in elementary school. And they haven’t been performing well at all, which explains the quotation marks above: The “lawmakers” aren’t doing much law-making.

This Congress is shaping up as the least productive since the Great Depression. Even the low number of laws enacted is a bit inflated given that the House and the Senate, unable for months to agree on funding the government, repeatedly passed stopgap spending bills to avert shutdowns.

The members finally finished the budget measures before dashing out the doors last weekend to start their spring break—nearly six months into the fiscal year, when they should already be at work on spending for fiscal 2025, which starts Oct. 1. Expect more brinkmanship then.

Don’t wish a pox on both houses and both parties, however. The blame lies with the House and the MAGA Republican Party that took charge there just over a year ago.

House Republicans can’t govern because so many of them are anti-government. They don’t want Washington to work when they can make partisan hay out of any disorder. They can’t pass needed laws because they won’t compromise, an essential act at any time but especially when the other party controls the Senate and White House.

Recall the House Republicans’ rejection last month of a bipartisan, conservative immigration bill of the sort they’d demanded. Some said the quiet part out loud. “I’m not willing to do too damn much right now to help a Democrat and to help Joe Biden’s approval rating,” Texas Rep. Troy Nehls said. And the House was only able to pass the government budget—its most important job—thanks to the votes of the Democrats. A majority of the Republican majority voted against it.

Legislation simply isn’t the House Republicans’ priority. That’s been impeaching President Joe Biden, along with his Homeland Security secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, but they’re bollixing those efforts as well. Republicans did impeach Mayorkas on their second attempt, not for actual high crimes or misdemeanors but for politics: He oversees border security, and blaming a Democrat for the migrant crush at the southern border is a good issue for Republicans. But that’s a terrible precedent, and more than a month later, they still haven’t sent the paperwork to the Senate.

As for Biden’s impeachment, the Republican Javerts have all but called it quits. Their hearings have failed spectacularly to turn up wrongdoing by the president, leaving them without enough Republican votes to follow through. This week, the chief sleuth, Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, told donors in a fundraising letter that instead of impeaching Biden, he’ll send a criminal referral to the Justice Department—for action once Donald Trump is elected.

Forty years ago last month I started covering Congress, and in all that time I’ve never witnessed a more self-defeating, unconstructive and pathetic performance by a majority party. I nodded knowingly when the now-former Rep. Ken Buck of Colorado explained to CNN why he resigned last Friday: “It’s

By **JACKIE CALMES**

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



the worst year in 40, 50 years to be in Congress.”

Incredibly, Buck wasn’t the first House Republican to simply walk away from the two-year job that the voters back home elected him to do, and he won’t be the last. Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California left at the end of 2023, three months after extremist House Republicans made him the first speaker in U.S. history to be deposed. Ohio Rep. Bill Johnson exited in January. And Rep. Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin, once considered a Republican up-and-comer, is up and leaving next month.

When he departs, House Republicans will be left with only a one-vote margin. That demands party unity to successfully legislate, as House Democrats showed with their slim majority in the productive Congress of 2021-2022. Yet Republicans are as fractious as any party in memory, and their humiliations of the last 15 months have only made them like each other less.

Republicans’ disunity is so great that McCarthy’s hapless replacement as speaker, Mike Johnson, has taken to using what’s called the suspension calendar to pass needed bills. That practice, long reserved mostly for noncontroversial legislation, expedites House action but requires support from two-thirds of the members rather than a majority vote. With ayes from Democrats together with some from Republicans, Johnson can reach that threshold, as he finally did on the budget.

This reliance on Democrats for must-pass bills is what spawned the rebellion against McCarthy and froze both chambers of Congress for most of October while House Republicans battled among themselves to replace him. And, indeed, the incomparably divisive Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Mar-a-Lago, er, Georgia, filed a motion after the budget vote to unseat Johnson, just as McCarthy was unseated, if he continues to work with Democrats. Which Johnson will, because Republicans like her leave him no choice.

The big test ahead is aid to Ukraine, which Greene and many of the far-right House Republicans oppose. In February, Johnson declared that the Senate’s bipartisan aid package for Ukraine (and Israel, Gaza and Taiwan) was DOA in the House. Yet, under pressure, he vowed on Friday that the House would take action to help the U.S. ally against its Russian invaders. With votes from Democrats. When members are back from recess.

Speaking of recesses: Voters could give the do-nothing Republican majority a permanent one if they put Democrats back in charge of the House this November. The bell can’t ring soon enough.

VLADIMIR

From page 6

16th in financial commitments as a share of GDP.

With the US Congress blocking additional military aid for Ukraine, it’s critical Germany play a more assertive role. Berlin should work with other European governments to get more weapons to the front lines. More than any individual weapons system, Ukraine needs more of what it has, starting with ammunition but also including planes, tanks and long-range precision guided missiles (including the US’s Army Tactical Missile System). Scholz should follow up on last week’s meeting in Berlin with the Polish and French leaders with concrete measures to bolster Europe’s defenses, rebuild depleted militaries and transfer sufficient support to Ukraine. That requires acknowledging that, as Europe’s biggest economy, Germany can no longer rely on a gridlocked Washington to take the lead.

Above all, those who wish peace for Ukraine and Europe must first be prepared to show Putin that he cannot win. That this war is existential for Ukraine has been evident since February 2022. Failing to stand firm against Russian aggression would be a mistake that Germany, and Europe as a whole, will come to regret.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

On behalf of Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours, please allow me to say thank you to the 80th Anniversary Committee, headed by Gordon Marciano and implemented by Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” Camacho, and to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, the Veterans Affairs Office, the Marianas Visitors Authority, as well as the staff and management of the American Memorial Park for all they did to welcome this year’s veterans tour of Saipan and Tinian.

Congratulations are also in order for your correspondent, Chrystal Marino, for composing the clearly heartfelt story about the commemoration that appeared in the *Saipan Tribune* on March 28.

Chris Anderson hit the nail on the head with his description of the warm greetings we received wherever we went on Saipan and Tinian. Near the end of the tour, our group’s tour director/historian, Mark Waycaster, USMC Ret., conducted a brief group analysis of the tour

with our guests. Collectively, they stated that the lunch prepared for us at Taga Beach, Tinian, prepared by JC’s Cafe, was one of their most memorable events because of the local participation. Members of the Tinian ROTC Stallion Battalion, led by Capt. Santos and 1st Sgt. King, joined us and sat with our guests, asking questions and listening to the veterans tell stories of their fathers’ roles in World War II. Mayor Aldan gave outstanding opening remarks before local resident historian Deborah Fleming said grace. I was so very proud of my students and neighbors.

If we had a mechanism to resolve the transportation problem, it would be wonderful if we could add a day on Rota. Even though that island was not invaded and captured during Operation Forager, the story of their survival—as the most bombed island in the Pacific during World War II—also needs to be told and retold and remembered.

Thank you all for supporting the commemoration of 80 years of peace in the Marianas that resulted from the U.S.-Japan alliance.

Don A. Farrell

Staff Historian

Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours

April come she will phasic basics

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



in 1957 mix beneath an April moon young lovers swoon and dance the night away to their very own private tune With old love songs on the AM and FM radio they croon Hear Philippine turtle doves and pigeons coo and make love all night and lollygag in bed until late afternoon Slowly parting from each other as April rains come soon May flowers don’t necessarily lead to June bridal bowers From July heat to sweltering sweaty August hear them cry Come September October November they have time to reflect remember and prepare for a delight full December Love surfaces in January but of valentines they are wary.

An Abecedarian April Senryu Sonnet

ADOLESCENCE fools rush in during teenage years
BIRTHDAY to be or not to be Shakespeare baptized
COMES a yellow dress for Easter from Chaucer showers
DO’S and don’ts thunder lightening and rain threatening
EGGS hardboiled in a basket chocolate has been foiled
FOOLS forget what they are like by May and June
GALA ‘Singing in the Rain’ dancing by ‘A staire’s’
HI JINX fooling around splashing in mud puddles
INJUSTICE pouring rain all day on her 16th birthday
JOKER cracks grins as April songs and tales he spins
KICKED soccer balls hit some ready some foolish heads
LOVE throughout April Love Pat Boone still croons
MOON full fools fall in love fooling under and above
NOON at a high calorie buffet time for a fourth plate.

April Love: The Stature of Nature

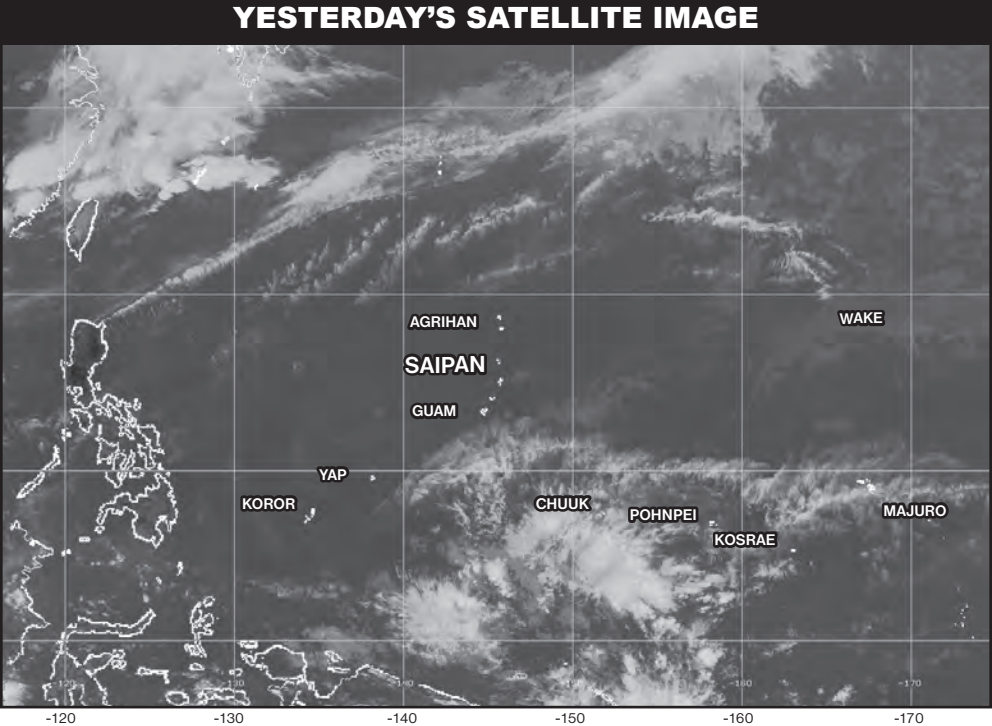
“April love is for the very young, every star’s a wishing star that shines for you. April love is all the seven wonders, one little kiss can tell you this is true.”

—Pat Boone, pop music hit 1957.

When April showers and ‘April Love’ as sung by Pat Boone

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| TODAY | | TUESDAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph. | | Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph. | | Breezy during the day. Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. | | Breezy during the day. Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. | | Breezy during the day. Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. | |
| 85 | 77° | 85 | 77° | 85 | 77° | 85 | 77° | 85 | 77° |



PICTURE TIME: 5:10 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showing partly cloudy skies with spotty light showers. Latest altimetry data indicating seas of 5 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲▼ °F |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy/Wind | 88° / 81° | |
| Palau | Mostly Cloudy | 87° / 81° | |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 89° / 81° | |
| Chuuk | Cloudy | 88° / 79° | |
| Pohnpei | Cloudy | 88° / 80° | |
| Kosrae | Mostly Cloudy | 86° / 80° | |
| Majuro | Mostly Cloudy/Wind | 86° / 83° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:13 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:11 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:11 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Thursday | 6:10 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Friday | 6:09 AM | 6:29 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 10:55 AM | - |
| Tuesday | 12:36 AM | 11:54 AM | - |
| Wednesday | 1:33 AM | 12:56 PM | - |
| Thursday | 2:27 AM | 1:59 PM | - |
| Friday | 3:17 AM | 3:01 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲▼ °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| Auckland | Sunny | 70° / 55° | |
| Beijing | Fair | 71° / 43° | |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 76° | |
| Honolulu | Showers | 77° / 69° | |
| London | Mostly Sunny | 57° / 39° | |
| Los Angeles | Rain | 57° / 50° | |
| Manila | Fair | 94° / 77° | |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 66° | |
| Miami | Sunny | 81° / 72° | |
| New York | Cloudy | 60° / 41° | |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | 72° / 60° | |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | 57° / 45° | |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 62° / 49° | |
| Rome | Showers | 61° / 45° | |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 64° | |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 62° / 49° | |
| Seoul | Sunny | 62° / 32° | |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 70° / 43° | |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | 65° / 42° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 1:24 AM | High Tide | 1.58 | |
| 6:16 AM | Low Tide | 1.32 | |
| 10:53 AM | High Tide | 1.63 | |
| 6:53 PM | Low Tide | -0.05 | |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA076 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily | UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA824 | 7:10AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 | UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily | PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau | UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:10AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA183 | 7:15PM | 9:10PM | Daily | UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:15AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily | UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA076/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam | UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam |
| UA076/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau | 7C2306/3406 | 11:10PM | 3:10PM+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 6:10AM | Daily | 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily | TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily | 7C3404 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------------------|--|
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024 | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | |
| 1301 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 08:30 | 09:00 | Daily | |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 10:30 | 11:00 | Daily | |
| 1303 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily | |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | |
| 3101 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 11:30 | 12:00 | Saturday & Sunday | |
| 3103 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 13:30 | 14:00 | Monday To Friday | |
| 3104 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | |
| 3401 | ROTA | GUAM | 11:30 | 12:00 | Monday To Friday | |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | |
| 4301 | GUAM | ROTA | 12:30 | 13:00 | Monday To Friday | |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | |
| 1201 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 7:30 | 7:45 | Daily | |
| 1202 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | |
| 1203 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | |
| 1204 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily | |
| 1206 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily | |
| 1207 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily | |
| 1208 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily | |
| 1209 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily | |
| TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | |
| 2101 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | |
| 2102 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily | |
| 2103 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily | |
| 2104 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily | |
| 2106 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily | |
| 2107 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily | |
| 2108 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily | |
| 2109 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily | |

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Radewagen meets with PACIFICA women leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) recently met with the PACIFICA women leaders, who presented Radewagen with their Wellbeing Report published recently at the close of 2023, which highlights the voices of Pacific women and girls in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

“I appreciate this good meeting with these influential women leaders and their important work on behalf of the women of the Pacific,” said Radewagen. “This excellent report relies directly on the input of Pacific women, and is a helpful look at these women’s lives today and how they tie closely to islander heritage. Although focused on New Zealand, this insight has application and much in common with our experiences throughout the Pacific Islands.”

During a 2018 visit to Auckland, Radewagen gave a

» Highlights Educational 2023 Wellbeing Report

keynote speech to PACIFICA as well. Their group name is an acronym for Pacific Allied (Women’s) Council Inspires Faith Ideals Concerning All. The report is based on available data viewed in context with an online survey of 173 Pacific women around New Zealand and it presents their voices, their challenges, and factors in how to support them.

The survey findings describe three areas of ongoing challenges: identity in navigating between their Western surroundings and their cultural values and obligations; biases they face being Pacific and female; and related socioeconomic hardship. The report is bolstered by dozens of direct quotes from the survey respondents, and calls for continued development of resources, opportunities, skills, seats at the table, equity, and efforts to highlight Pacific women leaders. It stress-

es reliance on the strengths within the Pacific community, such as deep cultural identity, Pacific representation and role models, while future aspirations include better platforms for Pacific women, a seat at the table in decision-making roles, unity in empowering each other, and improved mentoring, resources and funding.

The full report is available at <https://www.pacifica.org.nz/> (scroll down at the front page of the website to access the report). (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) pictured between PASIFICA National president Repeka Lelaulu and Lelei Lelaulu, with Rev. Alitasi Aoina-Salesa, Fabiara Masoe, Lupesina Koro, Anahila Kanongata'a, Anne Fitiseanu, Pania Schwenke, Helen Kareti, Marina Taylor, Tapu Elia, and Eseta Rasmussen.

GCC joins Community College Month campaign

Guam Community College joins community colleges nationwide in recognizing the month of April as Community College Month. Throughout the month, GCC will feature campaigns that highlight the many ways the college contributes to our island, the many relevant and in-demand skills that can be learned at GCC, and spotlighting Guamanians who graduated from GCC and are now contributing to our island’s successes. This national, monthlong educational campaign is coordinated by the Association of Community College Trustees or ACCT. The awareness campaign can be found online using the social media hashtag #CCMonth.

The primary goals of #CCmonth are to improve awareness of the economic, academic and equity advantages of attending community colleges, and to bust longtime stigmas wrongly associated with public two-year colleges.

“Over the last several years, we have seen a shift in the perception people have toward community colleges, from a fallback option to four-year colleges to now being an effective and efficient pathway to learn in-demand skills that lead to careers that pay very well,” said Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada, GCC president. “Community College Month is an opportunity to celebrate the importance and value of our college to our island community and to demonstrate how we are cultivating skills

for the future.”

Public community colleges are a uniquely American educational model that was designed to guarantee access to affordable, high-quality higher education for all people. They are the primary educators of life-saving nursing and other healthcare professionals among many others. They also serve as an onramp to bachelor’s, master’s and higher-level degrees for many students, and particularly for the most demographically and socioeconomically diverse students. They guarantee fair admissions for all students. They offer supports for adult students who have to work to support their families. And without community colleges, many American students would not be able to access higher education at all. In short, community colleges were created to serve the needs of their communities, and we can proudly say that GCC has done it exceptionally well.

Despite some ongoing stigma about community colleges, research from New America’s annual Varying Degrees study and other sources reveals that the majority of American people hold community colleges in the highest regard among all higher education institutions with respect to being worth the cost of attendance, whether tax dollars should support them, and whether they spend their resources wisely and run efficiently. (PR)

COOK – BP2024-02 Saipan, CNMI

ONE (1) COOK, Allied Construction Corporation dba: Barney's Pizza., Saipan, CNMI

Cook that we are trying to employ will be working in a catering business serving in the cafeteria and will Assist in the preparation and cooking of scheduled meals. Follow direction from the kitchen supervisors in following standard recipe and procedure. Must maintain orderliness and cleanliness of preparation and cooking areas. Clean and sanitized counter tops, tables, tools and kitchen equipment. Cook foodstuffs according to menus, special dietary or nutritional restrictions, and numbers of portions to be served. Direct activities of one or more workers who assist in preparing and serving meals. Bake breads, rolls, and other pastries. Clean, cut, and cook meat, fish, and poultry. Compile and maintain records of food use and expenditures. Requisition food supplies based on estimates of future needs. Any other job requirement that maybe asked in the pre and post production of meals.

Minimum Requirements: High School Graduate plus 12 monthsexperience.

Workplace: TEXAS ROAD, BARNYS PIZZA BUILDING Susupe Village Saipan, CNMI.

To apply: Please send your resume to Barney's Pizza, PMB 55 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to alliedspn@gmail.com Job Number – BP2024-02

MEDICAL ASSISTANT- SDA-2024-02 Saipan, CNMI

MEDICAL ASSISTANT: THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MISSION OF THE NMI dba: SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC, SAIPAN, CNMI

Must be able to perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a doctor. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining patients records, billing and coding information for billing and insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients who are put in general anesthesia and giving instructions before and after treatment administering medications under the direction of the doctors.

Minimum Requirements: High School Graduate, At least 12 months experience as medical healthcare assistant in a clinic or hospital setting.

Workplace: SDA DENTAL CLINIC QUARTER MASTER ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU VILLAGE, Saipan, CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to SDA DENTAL CLINIC, PO BOX 500169, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to accounting@saipansdadental.com Job Number – SDA-2024-02

Cafeteria Workers (Supervisor) – BP2024-01 Saipan, CNMI

TWO (2) Cafeteria Workers (Supervisor), Allied Construction Corporation dba: Barney's Pizza., Saipan, CNMI

Supervise daily cafeteria operation which includes being the head cashier, making sure that the contractual obligations and standards are being met. Supervisor will also be the HACCP head of the service location. Monitor performances of service staff and coordination with the school administration, staff teacher and parents. The supervisor will also be in charge of inventory and supplies requisition, see to it that maintenance of cafeteria and surroundings is clean and sanitized condition at all times. Ensure that the food is of the highest quality possible, and that food is stored in a safe and sanitary manner. Answer student and teacher complaints. Report any shortages to the person in charge of ordering or in some cases, requisition them yourself.

Minimum Requirements: High School Graduate, plus 12 months experience in food catering operation, 3 months training on food preparation, serving guidelines and proper handling.

Workplace: TEXAS ROAD, BARNYS PIZZA BUILDING Susupe Village Saipan, CNMI.

To apply: Please send your resume to Barney's Pizza, PMB 55 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to alliedspn@gmail.com Job Number –BP2024-01

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (DENTAL ASSISTANT)- SDA-2024-01 Saipan, CNMI

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (DENTAL ASSISTANT): THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MISSION OF THE NMI dba: SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC, SAIPAN, CNMI

Assist in taking radiographs, probing readings and intraoral photos when needed. Set up trays with instruments for dentist and hygienist. Removing used trays from treatment room and sterilize prior to next patient. Primary Assistant Functions: Primary assistants are assigned to a specific dentist. Keep track of dentists schedule, to be sure he/she stays on schedule. Assist the dentist during a variety of treatment procedures. Keep track of the dentists specific supplies - bonding material, instruments, etc. Keep track of all of the dentists Lab cases. A log must be kept for each dentist. Monitor the TA box and take the chart as soon as possible. Communicate with the front office if running behind or a change in the dentists schedule. Request help if needed from other assistants or if the secondary assistant is unable to help. Leave (time off) should coincide with the specific dentists leave.

Minimum Requirements: High School Graduate, 12 months experience.

Workplace: SDA DENTAL CLINIC QUARTER MASTER ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU VILLAGE, Saipan, CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to SDA DENTAL CLINIC, PO BOX 500169, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to accounting@saipansdadental.com Job Number – SDA-2024-01

Nation

Biden is lapping Trump when it comes to campaign cash — and he'll need it

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Joe Biden's reelection campaign is raising gobs of cash. And it has an election-year strategy that, in a nutshell, aims to spend more—and spend faster.

Not only has Biden aimed to show himself off as a fundraising juggernaut this month, but his campaign is also making significant early investments both on the ground and

on the airwaves—hoping to create a massive organizational advantage that leaves Republican Donald Trump scrambling to catch up.

But while the money pouring in has given Biden and the Democrats a major cash advantage, it's also becoming clear Biden will need it. Throughout his life in business and politics, Trump's provocations have earned him near

limitless free media attention. Biden, meanwhile, has often struggled to cut through the noise with his own message despite holding the presidency.

That means Biden is going to need oodles of cash to blanket battleground states where a few thousand votes could mean the difference between victory or defeat. Add to that the challenge of reaching millennials, as well as even younger voters, who formed an important part

of his 2020 coalition, in a far more fractured media ecosystem that skews toward streaming services over conventional broadcast and cable.

Biden's organizational and outreach effort began in earnest this month, with the campaign using his State of the Union address as a launching pad to open 100 new field offices nationwide and boosting the number of paid staff in battleground states to 350 people.

It's also currently in the middle of a \$30 million television and digital advertising campaign targeting specific communities such as Black, Hispanic and Asian voters.

In one example of the incumbent president's organizational advantage, his reelection campaign in February had 480 staffers on the ground, compared with 311 to that of Trump and the Republican National Committee, according to Biden campaign officials.

"We're ramping up campaign headquarters and field offices, hiring staff all across the country before Trump and his MAGA Republicans have even opened one single office," Biden boasted Friday in New York during a meeting of his national finance committee, which included 200 of his largest donors and fundraisers from in and around the city.

CIVIL ENGINEERING
TECHNICIAN - HONGYE 2024-01

Saipan, CNMI

One (1) CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN, HONG YE RENTAL & CONSTRUCTION, LTD., Saipan, CNMI

Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Tasks include: Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer; read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements; draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications; confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan reparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions; analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings. Prepare reports and document project activities and data; report maintenance problems occurring at project site to supervisor and negotiate changes to resolve system conflicts; inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes; conduct materials test and analysis using tools and equipment and applying engineering knowledge; develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems, utilization of facilities, or construction of structures; develop project budgets by estimating the cost of project activities; evaluate facility to determine suitability for occupancy and square footage availability and negotiate prices for new contracts or for modifications to existing contracts with contractors.

Minimum Requirements: Associate's degree in Engineering, or related field, foreign educational equivalent accepted, plus 24 months of related work experience; Must be knowledgeable in cost estimating, planning, scheduling, site inspection and familiarization of materials, methods and tools involved in construction or related.

Workplace: 3786 AFETNAS ROAD SAN ANTONIO, Saipan CNMI.

To apply: Please send your resume to Ace HONG YE RENTAL & CONSTRUCTION, LTD., PO BOX 502997, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to hongye-mei@hotmail.com

Job Number – HONGYE-2024-01

Crews carefully start removing first piece of twisted steel from collapsed Baltimore bridge

BALTIMORE (AP)— Teams of engineers worked Saturday on the intricate process of cutting and lifting the first section of twisted steel from the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge, which crumpled into the Patapsco River this week after a massive cargo ship crashed into one of its supports.

Sparks could be seen flying from a section of bent and crumpled steel in the afternoon, and video released by officials in the evening showed demolition crews using a cutting torch to slice through the thick beams. The joint incident command said in a statement that the work was being done on the top of the north side of the collapsed structure.

Crews were carefully measuring and cutting the steel from the broken bridge before attaching straps so it can be lifted onto a barge and floated away, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Shannon Gilreath said.

Seven floating cranes—including a massive one capable of lifting 1,000 tons—10 tugboats, nine barges, eight salvage vessels and five Coast Guard boats were on site in the water southeast of Baltimore.

Each movement affects what happens next and ultimately how long it will take to remove all the debris and reopen the ship channel and the blocked Port of Baltimore, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said.

"I cannot stress enough how important today and the first movement of this bridge and of the wreckage is. This is going to be a remarkably complicated process," Moore said.

Undeterred by the chilly morning weather, longtime Baltimore resident Randy Lichtenberg and others took cellphone photos or just quietly looked at the broken pieces of the bridge, which including its steel trusses weigh as much as 4,000 tons.

"I wouldn't want to be in that water. It's got to be cold. It's a tough job," Lichtenberg said from a spot on the river called Sparrows Point.

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Tinian, CNMI

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Minimum Requirements: Minimum of 12 months experience in retail and wholesale accounting and operation.

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BOOKKEEPER - HS2024-01

Tinian, CNMI

BOOKKEEPER, HUANG SHUN CORPORATION - Tinian, CNMI.

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Minimum Requirements: Associate Degree in Accounting or Business, foreign educational equivalent accepted, plus 12 months experience in retail and wholesale accounting and operation.

Workplace: U-Save Market Building, Lot #014 T 22, San Jose Village, Tinian 96952 CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to Huang Shun Corporation, PO BOX 520335, Tinian, MP 96952 or e-mail to tinianpopz@hotmail.com Job Advertisement Number – HS2024-01

Trump camp assails Biden for declaring March 31, Easter Sunday, as Transgender Day of Visibility

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Joe Biden is facing criticism from Donald Trump's campaign and religious conservatives for proclaiming March 31—which corresponds with Easter Sunday this year—as "Transgender Day of Visibility."

The Democratic president issued the proclamation on Friday, calling on "all Americans to join us in lifting up the lives and voices of transgender people throughout our Nation and to work toward eliminating violence and discrimination based on gender identity."

But in 2024, the March 31 designation overlaps with Easter, one of Christianity's holiest celebrations. Trump's campaign accused Biden, a Roman Catholic, of being insensitive to religion, and fellow Republicans piled on.

"We call on Joe Biden's failing campaign and White House to issue an apology to the millions of Catholics and Christians across America who believe tomorrow is for one celebration only—the resurrection of Jesus Christ," said Karoline Leavitt, the Trump campaign's press secretary. She assailed what she called the Biden administration's "years-long assault on the Christian faith."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said on social media that the "Biden White House has betrayed the central tenet of Easter" and called the decision "outrageous and abhorrent."

White House spokesperson Andrew Bates said the Republicans criticizing Biden "are seeking to divide and weaken our country with cruel, hateful and dishonest rhetoric."

"As a Christian who celebrates Easter with family, President Biden stands for bringing people together and upholding the dignity and freedoms of every American," Bates said. "President Biden will never abuse his faith for political purposes or for profit."

Biden devoutly attends Mass and considers his Catholic upbringing to be a core part of his morality and identity. In 2021, he met with Pope Francis at the Vatican and afterward told reporters that the pontiff said he was a "good Catholic" who should keep receiving Communion.

But Biden's political stances on gay marriage and support for women having the right to abortion have put him at odds with many conservative Christians.

World

Zelenskyy fires more aides in reshuffle

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed a longtime aide and several advisers on Saturday in a continuing reshuffle while Russia unleashed fresh attacks overnight.

Zelenskyy dismissed top aide Serhiy Shefir from his post of first assistant, where he had served since 2019. The Ukrainian president also let go three advisers, and two presidential representatives overseeing volunteer activities and soldiers' rights.

No explanation was given im-

mediately for the latest changes in a wide-reaching personnel shakeup over recent months. It included the dismissal on Tuesday of Oleksii Danilov, who served as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, and Valerii Zaluzhnyi as head of the armed forces on Feb. 8. Zaluzhnyi was appointed Ukraine's ambassador to the United Kingdom earlier this month.

Ukraine's air force said Saturday that Russia launched 12 Shahed drones overnight, nine of which were shot

down, and fired four missiles into eastern Ukraine.

Russia unleashed a barrage of 38 missiles, 75 airstrikes and 98 attacks from multiple rocket launchers over the last 24 hours, Ukraine's armed forces said in social media posts.

Two people were killed and one wounded in Russian shelling in Ukraine's partially oc-

cupied Donetsk province, regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said Saturday.

Ukrainian energy company Centrengo announced Saturday that the Zmiiv Thermal Power Plant, one of the largest thermal power plants in the eastern Kharkiv region, was completely destroyed following Russian shelling last week. Power outage schedules

were still in place for around 120,000 people in the region, where 700,000 people had lost electricity after the plant was hit on March 22.

Russia has escalated its attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure in recent days, causing significant damage in several regions.

Officials in the Poltava region said Saturday there had

been "several hits" to an infrastructure facility, without specifying whether it was an energy facility.

Meanwhile, the toll of Friday's mass barrage of 99 drones and missiles hitting regions across Ukraine came to light on Saturday, with local officials in the Kherson region on Saturday morning announcing the death of one civilian. A resident of the Dnipropetrovsk region died in a hospital from shell wounds, according to regional Gov. Serhiy Lisak.

Palestinian Christians observe scaled-down Good Friday rituals in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hundreds of Christians participated in a customary Good Friday procession through the limestone walls of Jerusalem's Old City, commemorating one of the faith's most sacred days with noticeably thinner crowds amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

The procession, which normally draws thousands of foreign visitors, was unusually local—mostly Palestinian Christians, joined by some foreigners living in Jerusalem and a few undeterred tourists.

The procession passes along the Way of the Cross, or Via Dolorosa, the route believed to have been walked by Jesus to

his crucifixion. Squads of Israeli police set up barricades along the path, rerouting shoppers in the Old City's bustling Muslim quarter to make way for hundreds of pilgrims.

A young group of Palestinian Arab scouts led the day's procession, past the 14 stations, each marking an event that befell Jesus on his final journey. Hundreds of Palestinian Christians walked in their wake. Behind them was a small parade of the Franciscan religious order, composed mainly of foreigners who live in Jerusalem.

"We wait for this every year," said Munira Kamar, a Palestinian Christian from the

Old City, who waved to the cross-bearers who stopped to give her young daughter a kiss on the cheek. "Of course, this year we are unhappy because of the situation with the ongoing war."

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed in Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza, launched after Hamas' Oct. 7 killings and hostage-taking in Israel.

The impact of the war was clear at the procession's final stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where Jesus is believed to have been crucified and laid to rest before his resurrection on Easter.

There, instead of the crowds who normally queue for hours in the church courtyard, entrance to the site was easy.

The city's streets were noticeably devoid of Palestinian Christians from the West Bank, who normally flock to the Holy City for Easter. Since Oct. 7, Palestinian worshippers have needed special permission to cross checkpoints into Jerusalem.

Despite the thinned crowds, shopkeepers, whose heavy metal doors are usually closed on Fridays, threw them open for tourists seeking Catholic memorabilia. But shoppers were few and far between.

WORLD BRIEFS

Girl, 8, only survivor of bus crash that kills 45 Easter pilgrims on S. Africa's deadly roads

MMAMATLAKALA, South Africa (AP)—An 8-year-old girl was the lone survivor after a bus full of pilgrims making their way to a popular Easter festival in rural South Africa slammed into a bridge on a mountain pass and plunged into a ravine before bursting into flames, killing all 45 others onboard. It was a tragic reminder of how deadly South Africa's roads become during the Easter period, when millions crisscross the country during the long holiday weekend. Authorities repeatedly warn motorists of the danger and had issued multiple messages urging caution just a day before Thursday's horrific crash. The girl somehow survived after the bus carrying worshippers from neighboring Botswana careened off the bridge, fell more than 150 feet (50 meters) and caught fire as it hit the rocks below, according to authorities. The girl was in a stable condition in the hospital after being admitted with serious injuries and was "in safe hands," an official with the local health department said Friday.

A man suspected of holding 4 hostages for hours in a Dutch nightclub has been arrested

EDE, Netherlands (AP)—Dutch police detained a man Saturday after he left a nightclub where four people had been held hostage for hours, bringing a peaceful end to a tense standoff. "We are exceptionally happy that it ended this way. That the victims came out safely and that we were able to arrest this suspect without using violence," said Marthyne Kunst, head of the regional public prosecutor's office. There was no immediate word on a motive, but police and prosecutors said they did not believe it was a terrorist in-

cident. Police said the hostage-taker was armed with knives, and a backpack he carried was being examined to establish if it contained explosives. The hostage-taking in the central Dutch market town of Ede, 85 kilometers (53 miles) southeast of Amsterdam, ended around midday when a man walked out of the Cafe Petticoat club and was ordered by armed police to kneel with his hands on his head. He was then handcuffed before being led into a waiting police car.

Filipino villager is nailed to a cross for the 35th time on Good Friday to pray for world peace

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino villager has been nailed to a wooden cross for the 35th time to reenact Jesus Christ's suffering in a brutal Good Friday tradition he said he would devote to pray for peace in Ukraine, Gaza and the disputed South China Sea. On Friday, over a hundred people watched on as 10 devotees were nailed to wooden crosses, among them Ruben Enaje, a 63-year-old carpenter and sign painter. The real-life crucifixions have become an annual religious spectacle that draws tourists in three rural communities in Pampanga province, north of Manila. The gory ritual resumed last year after a three-year pause due to the coronavirus pandemic. It has turned Enaje into a village celebrity for his role as the "Christ" in the Lenten reenactment of the Way of the Cross. Ahead of the crucifixions, Enaje told The Associated Press by telephone Thursday night that he has considered ending his annual religious penitence due to his age, but said he could not turn down requests from villagers for him to pray for sick relatives and all other kinds of maladies. The need for prayers has also deepened in an alarming period of wars and conflicts worldwide, he said.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

Nolan and wife to get British knighthood and damehood

LONDON (AP)—The Oscar-winning director of “Oppenheimer,” Christopher Nolan, and his wife and producer Emma Thomas, will receive a knighthood and damehood for their services to film, according to a statement on Thursday from the U.K. government.

Their recognition comes after their biopic about J. Robert Oppenheimer, the “father of the atomic bomb,” swept the awards season, notably at the Academy Awards earlier this month, where the movie won seven Oscars, including best film and best director.

Nolan, 53, had previously

been nominated for “Memento,” “Inception” and “Dunkirk.”

News of their honors was a bit of a surprise, because they are usually handed out twice in the year, once to mark the new year and then on the birthday of King Charles III, who confers the honors. They are sometimes awarded after special achievements, often related to sports and the arts.

The honors are formally awarded at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, often by the U.K. monarch in person. However, the king is currently not undertaking any royal duties,

because he is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Born in London to a British father and American mother, Nolan met his future wife, Thomas, 53, while they both attended University College London. They have four children and run a production company,

Syncopy, which has been behind many of their blockbusters.

When Nolan was presented with the British Film Institute Fellowship earlier this year for being “one of the world’s most innovative and influential film directors,” he credited his wife.

He said he never felt alone

making films as Thomas “always saw things the same way I did in terms of the importance of the medium.”

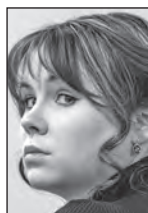
Addressing the audience at this year’s Academy Awards, Nolan noted cinema is just over a century old.

“Imagine being there 100

years into painting or theater,” said Nolan, who shared the best-picture award with his wife and producer. “We don’t know where this incredible journey is going from here. But to know that you think that I’m a meaningful part of it means the world to me.”

New trial denied for 'Rust' armorer convicted in shooting of cinematographer by Alec Baldwin

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico judge on Friday rejected an effort by a movie set armorer to challenge her conviction of involuntary manslaughter in the 2021 fatal shooting of



Gutierrez-Reed

a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the West-

ern film “Rust.”

After hearing brief arguments during a virtual hearing, Santa Fe-based Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said she would be staying the course and that armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed would remain in custody pending

her sentencing in April.

Gutierrez-Reed was convicted by a jury in early March in the October 2021 shooting on the outskirts of Santa Fe, New Mexico, during a rehearsal. Baldwin was indicted by a grand jury in January and has pleaded not guilty to an involuntary manslaughter charge, with trial set for July.

Defense attorneys for Gutierrez-Reed had filed a request earlier this month for a new trial and urged the judge to release their client from jail as deliberations proceeded. Attorney Jason Bowles told the judge Friday that his client had no violations during the trial, takes care of her father and has been in counseling.

Louis Gossett Jr. dies at 87

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Louis Gossett Jr., the first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar and an Emmy winner for his role in the seminal TV miniseries “Roots,” has died. He was 87.

Gossett’s first cousin Neal L. Gossett told The Associated Press that the actor died in Santa Monica, California. A statement from the family said Gossett died Friday morning. No cause of death was revealed.

Gossett’s cousin remembered a man who walked with Nelson Mandela and who also was a great joke teller, a relative who faced and fought racism with dignity and humor.

“Never mind the awards, never mind the glitz and glamor, the Rolls-Royces and the big houses in Malibu. It’s about the humanity of the people that he stood for,” his cousin said.

Louis Gossett always thought of his early career as a reverse Cinderella story, with success



AP

Louis Gossett Jr. poses for a portrait in New York to promote the release of “Roots: The Complete Original Series” on Bu-ray on May 11, 2016.

finding him from an early age and propelling him forward, toward his Academy Award for “An Officer and a Gentleman.”

Gossett broke through on the small screen as Fiddler in the groundbreaking 1977 miniseries “Roots,” which depicted the atrocities of slavery on TV. The sprawling cast included Ben Vereen, LeVar Burton and John Amos.

Green Day will headline UN-backed global climate concert in SF

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Green Day will headline a United Nations Human Rights-backed global climate concert on Tuesday at the famed Fillmore in San Francisco.

The intimate event, which is co-hosted by the Recording Academy, aims to bring attention to the inequalities exacerbated by climate change.

Ultra Q, an alternative rock band fronted by Green Day singer Billie Joe Armstrong’s son Jakob Danger, will open.

Proceeds from the concert will go to United Nations Human Rights climate justice initiatives and a MusiCares climate fund to benefit musicians affected by climate change.

The Right Here, Right Now

Global Climate Alliance will honor Green Day for their “commitment to social justice and environmental causes,” according to a press release.

“As world renowned artists and activists, Green Day continues to leverage its major influence and platform to bring awareness to the impact of climate change on the people and

the environment,” Volker Türk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a statement.

“The United Nations was founded in San Francisco almost 80 years ago to safeguard human rights and dignity from crisis and tragedy. It is only fitting that we are back in San Francisco,” he said.

AFTER 18 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Tori Spelling files for divorce from Dean McDermott

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tori Spelling filed for divorce Friday from her husband and former reality TV co-star Dean McDermott.

The former “Beverly Hills, 90210” actor petitioned to end the marriage of nearly 18 years in Los Angeles Superior Court. She cited irre-

concilable differences.

Spelling’s petition says the two have been separated since June 17.

She is asking for sole physical custody and joint legal custody of their three sons and two daughters, whose ages range from 7 to 17. Physical custody determines with which parent

the children primarily reside, while legal custody is who makes their major life decisions.

Spelling is asking the court to order McDermott to pay her spousal support and to pay for her divorce attorneys. No dollar amount was given.

The marriage was the subject of a reality show, originally

titled “Tori & Dean: Inn Love” and later “Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood,” that ran on the Oxygen network from 2007 to 2012.

Spelling, the 50-year-old daughter of the late TV magnate Aaron Spelling, starred alongside Luke Perry, Shannen Doherty and Jennie Garth in the original “Beverly Hills, 90210” from 1990 to 2000. She also appeared in the films “Scary Movie 2” and “The House of Yes.”

Long friendship turns sour when they become neighbors

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been friends with another couple for many years. We would get together occasionally, and we mostly enjoyed their company. When the house across the street from ours became available, they bought it.

Not long after they moved in, the wife began copying our interior and exterior design elements and one night stood in our kitchen and said, “Well you know, everything’s a competition.” To say we were dismayed would be an understatement. My husband and I spent many years collecting vintage furniture and other items to create a distinctive home. It has been a labor of love.

Six months ago, we installed a unique garage door, unlike anything in the neighborhood. Abby, within three months she installed the exact same one! Are we wrong to find it crass and disrespectful?

We no longer want to spend time with them but don’t want to completely sever the connection because they are neighbors, and we also have some mutual friends. Moving is not an option; this is our home. What should we do?

FED UP IN OHIO

DEAR FED UP: I understand why you are frosted and need to distance yourself. Who wants to be close to someone who considers “everything” to be a competition? Perhaps it will lessen your frustration to remember that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, while you learn to accept things you

cannot change. Of course it is in your best interest to keep things cordial, but it might be better if you no longer invite this woman INTO your home.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I lost my beautiful mother six years ago. While, of course, I miss her terribly, something else has been bothering me that I’m having trouble getting over. I allowed my cousin on my dad’s side of the family to come to the hospital to see me and pay her respects, which didn’t bother me. It’s what occurred next that I have the big issue with.

When my cousin left the hospital, she jumped straight on Facebook and posted for everyone to see “RIP, Aunt Sally.” Everyone who was friends with Mom saw the post, which meant she announced my mom’s passing before I had even had time to process it all. I was extremely hurt, angry, sad and shocked that she would do that.

It still bothers me as it’s not something that can be undone. I was still lying beside my mom crying and trying to say goodbye to her when my phone started blowing up with messages and notifications. How can I get past the betrayal I feel? I have had very little contact with that cousin since.

HURT IN FLORIDA

DEAR HURT: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. In this internet age, it’s not unusual for people

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



to post their feelings online. Your cousin may have been venting rather than intending to make a formal announcement of your mother’s passing. The problem with posting is that once it’s on there, it is out there for everyone to see and react to.

I do think this is something you should discuss with your cousin, who may not have realized how her online sentiments affected you on that sad and stressful day. You deserve an apology for her insensitivity.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

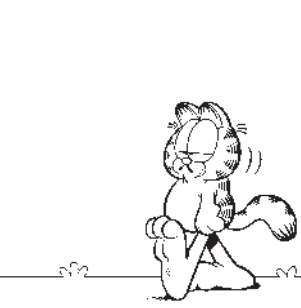
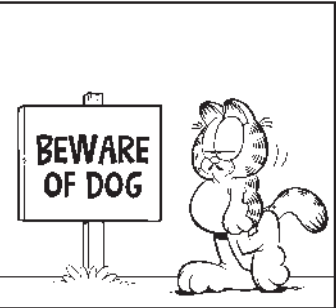
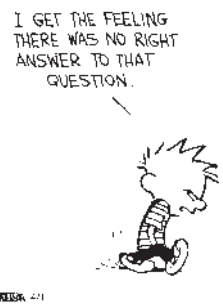
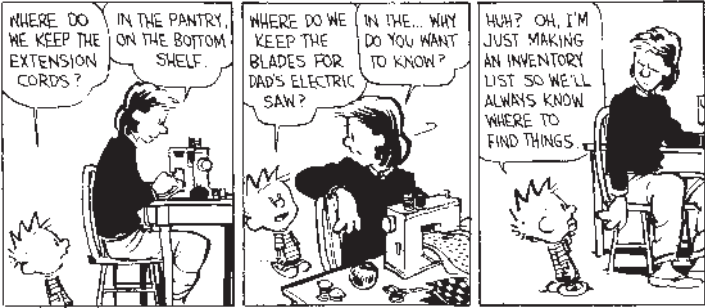
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

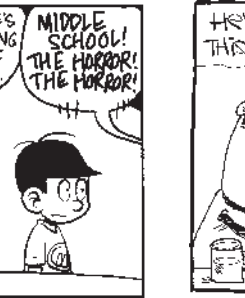


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Binge

4 Daub

9 iPad

12 "Exodus"

13 Cotton

14 Super

15 "No idea!"

17 Standard

18 Wedding

19 "Is that

21 Bee

24 Introduc-

25 Resis-

26 Dig in

28 Mazda

31 Loch —

33 Weep

35 Despot

36 Leaks

38 Bud

40 List-

DOWN

1 — alai

2 Off-

3 USO

4 Mire

5 Brunch

6 Kreskin's

7 Warning

8 Pay off

9 "That

10 Ellipse

11 Agile

12 Quaker

13 "This is

14 no joke!"

15 Spinning

16 "See ya!"

17 Story

18 Raced

19 Christen

20 —

21 number

22 Estée

23 of cos-

24 metics

25 Math

26 proposi-

27 Actor

28 Beatty

29 Uses a

30 Sicilian

31 peak

32 Den-

33 nings of

34 "2 Broke

35 Girls"

36 Hot

37 temper

38 Promptly

39 "Gosh!"

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's Answer

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asa But-
terfield, 27; Hillary Scott, 38; Taran Killam, 42; Su-
san Boyle, 63.

Happy Birthday: Use your energy constructively.
Review, assess and consider the possibilities. A shift
in your schedule or daily routine will encourage you
to restructure your long-term goals, focus on activi-
ties you enjoy and use your skills differently. Keeping
up with trends and managing your time will help you
make the most of your life. Invest in self-improve-
ment, and take the path that ensures your happiness.
Your numbers are 7, 13, 23, 25, 32, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pick up the
pace and keep the peace. You'll accom-
plish more if you focus on what's important
and spend less time worrying about what others do
or think. Distance yourself from drama and control
freaks. Don't ignore deadlines. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop wait-
ing; it's up to you to make things happen.
Make plans and execute your actions be-
fore someone steps in and interferes. A straight-
forward approach will win you points and hands-
on help. Follow your heart and turn your dream
into a reality. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Handle with
care. Proceed cautiously, no matter what
you want or who you deal with. Make
sure you have your facts straight before you put
your reputation on the line. Expect the information
you receive to be exaggerated, and make conces-
sions to compensate. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your
actions speak for you. Take the initiative
to follow through, and use your wisdom
and experience to outmaneuver competition. Keep

your emotions hidden and your mind dedicated to
finishing what you start. Make progress toward
your target. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A situation will es-
calate if you aren't willing to compromise.
Listen to complaints and suggestions, and
use your skills and knowledge to find a solution. How
well you get along with others will determine your
success. Don't labor over minuscule matters. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make your
move. Whatever you want, now is the time
to make it happen. Position yourself for suc-
cess and proceed with passion, and you'll cast a po-
sitive vibe that enhances your meaningful personal and
professional relationships. Strive for perfection, and
you won't be disappointed. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Lean into
whatever interests you and see where it
leads. Don't let what's going on at home
cost you emotionally or financially. Walk down
memory lane and gain valuable insight into what's
best for you. Observe and choose the path that feels
comfortable and secure. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Adjust your
lifestyle to suit your needs. Consider what
and who brings you joy, and expand the
time spent following your dream. Refrain from
feeling obligated to please everyone. It's time to
nurture yourself, build inner strength and prepare
yourself for what's next. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Re-
view information and skills that will help
you advance. Refuse to let someone dictate
what you can and cannot do when your decisions will
determine how your life unfolds. Be true to yourself,
and don't back down. ***

EUGENIA
LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Re-
visit long-term plans and adjust what isn't
working for you or what you no longer
want to pursue. Fine-tune your plans and explore
your options. Make a domestic change that offers
more freedom to determine your interests. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Follow
the dots, consider what you can afford
and change what's necessary. Refuse to
get caught up in someone else's dream or to let
others cost you when you should invest more
time and money in yourself and what you want
to pursue. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Show en-
thusiasm and make a move that positions
you for success. Contact people who share
your concerns and build alliances that strengthen
your objective. Change begins with you, and hav-
ing the courage to take a stance will prompt others
to join you. ****

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, emotional
and underrated. You are original and persistent.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can
accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and
you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new proj-
ects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty: ★ 4/1

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing
puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with
several given numbers. The
object is to place the numbers
1 to 9 in the empty squares so
that each row, each column
and each 3x3 box contains the
same number only once. The
difficulty level of the Conceptis
Sudoku increases from Monday
to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

WONDERWORD By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori-
zontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each
letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the
WONDERWORD.

ELEPHANT RIDERS Solution: 8 letters

N O I T I D A R T S O C I A L
A S A V A N N A I D N I N I A
T P L E M A C H A I R A A N N
U A H A G N I D D E W R P D D
R C T C M U T R U S T A O O S
E E H B A M H A T N S P P N C
A V M Y L E A B E S O A U L E
D A M A R T A B O E I O L L E S P
V C N O S L N N R C Z A A I E
E A T T E O G K C E N C R A Y
N T E S R E V I E W T E A D T
T I I R S P I R T N L F R E
U O V H D E S I C R E X E E F
R N O I H S U C I R C U S H A
E X P E R I E N C E L D D A S

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Adventure, Beach, Blanket, Botswana, Camel, Chair, Circus,
Cushion, Environment, Exercise, Experience, Fence, Herd,
History, Huge, India, Indonesia, Landscape, Mammal,
Nature, Neck, Palace, Passenger, Popular, Rest, Saddle,
Safety, Savanna, Shelter, Social, Space, Tradition, Trail,
Trips, Trust, Vacation, Vietnam, View, Wedding, Zoos

Last Friday's Answer: Lifetime
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com,
or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Braves rally in the seventh inning to defeat Phillies



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Matt Olson

doubled three times, including a bases-loaded drive in a seven-run eighth inning that rallied the NL East champion Atlanta Braves past the Philadelphia Phillies 9-3 in Friday's season opener.

Michael Harris II had three hits and snapped an eighth-inning tie with an RBI single off José Alvarado (0-1) that made it 3-2 and ignited a breakout inning. Alvarado allowed five runs and Connor Brogdon gave up two.

Pierce Johnson (1-0) tossed a scoreless seventh to earn the win for Atlanta in a game delayed a day by rain.

Brandon Marsh hit a two-run homer for the Phillies.

BREWERS 3, METS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Christian Yelich homered, Freddy Peralta pitched six splendid innings and Milwaukee threw a one-hitter to beat the New York Mets in their contentious season opener.

Peralta (1-0) struck out eight and walked none in his first opening-day start, helping Pat Murphy to a victory in his debut as Milwaukee manager after he replaced Craig Counsell. The only hit the right-hander gave up was Starling Marte's one-out homer in the second.

RAYS 8, BLUE JAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Aaron Civale allowed one run over six innings and Brandon Lowe hit his fourth career grand slam to lead Tampa Bay past Toronto.

Civale, a trade deadline acquisition who helped the Rays withstand injuries and make their fifth straight playoff appearance, limited the Blue Jays to George Springer's solo homer and three singles



Atlanta Braves' Matt Olson follows through after hitting a three-run double off Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Connor Brogdon during the eighth inning of an opening-day baseball game, Friday, March 29, 2024, in Philadelphia.

before turning over a five-run lead to the bullpen.

Randy Arozarena's RBI single made it 5-1 in the fifth. José Caballero drove in a run in the sixth and defending AL batting champion Yandy Díaz tacked on a two-run single in the eighth.

PIRATES 7, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Ke'Bryan Hayes had a single and an RBI double, and Pittsburgh used another solid pitching outing to beat Miami.

Michael A. Taylor and Connor Joe also doubled for the Pirates.

Starter Martín Pérez held the Marlins to one run through four innings, allowing six

hits with two strikeouts and three walks.

Jake Burger drove in Miami's first run with a single in the third that scored reigning NL batting champion Luis Arraez, who remains hitless. Burger had his second straight multihit game, but the Marlins have been hurt by grounding into seven double plays this season.

YANKEES 7, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Oswaldo Cabrera had a career-high four hits with three RBIs and Giancarlo Stanton added a solo homer to lead the New York Yankees over Houston.

Juan Soto had three hits and put the Yankees ahead when

he drew a bases-loaded walk in a two-run seventh.

Jose Altuve hit a leadoff double for the Astros and scored when Alex Bregman singled with two outs on a ball to center that a diving Alex Verdugo deflected.

GIANTS 8, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Matt Chapman homered twice, doubled and drove in five runs for San Francisco, who jumped on Joe Musgrove early in a win over San Diego.

Kyle Harrison (1-0), a 22-year-old lefty, got plenty of run support to overcome impressive home runs by Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. Tatis homered again off re-

liever Tyler Rogers.

Bob Melvin got his first win with the Giants after two seasons managing the Padres.

Chapman hit a two-run homer in the three-run first, his first this season. He hit a massive two-run shot with one out in the ninth off the top level of the four-story brick warehouse in the left-field corner.

MARINERS 1, RED SOX 0

SEATTLE (AP)—George Kirby allowed just two hits and struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings, J.P. Crawford homered and Seattle beat Boston.

Kirby (1-0) opened his season with another deep start after a strong 2023. Last year, he lasted at least six innings in 23 of his 31 starts.

Red Sox starter Nick Pivetta (0-1) nearly matched Kirby. Pivetta allowed one run on three hits over six innings, striking out 10 without a walk.

Andrés Muñoz got the final four outs to earn the save.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, ROCKIES 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Alek Thomas hit a three-run homer, Merrill Kelly delivered 6 2/3 quality innings and Arizona beat Colorado.

Thomas had his big moment in the sixth, connecting on a slider up in the zone from Jake Bird, launching it deep into the right-field seats for a 7-1 lead.

Joc Pederson had four hits, including a double. Ketel Marte added three hits, a walk

and a stolen base.

Pederson had the first four-hit debut in franchise history. Marte is the first to have back-to-back, three-hit games to start the season.

Kelly (1-0) cruised for most the night, giving up one run on three hits while striking out eight. The right-hander has thrown at least five innings in 30 straight regular-season outings, which ranks second among current MLB pitchers, behind Mitch Keller's 32-game streak.

The Diamondbacks got their scoring started with back-to-back solo homers in the first from Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Christian Walker.

Colorado's Elías Díaz hit a solo homer in the second to cut the D-backs' lead to 2-1. Charlie Blackmon had an RBI triple in the eighth and later scored on a wild pitch.

GUARDIANS 6, ATHLETICS 4

OAKLAND (AP)—José Ramírez hit his first home run of the season, Andrés Giménez had three hits and Cleveland beat Oakland.

Ramírez hit a two-run homer as part of a three-run first inning for the Guardians. Giménez (3 for 3, two walks) hit a pair of RBI doubles, while Will Brennan added an RBI single for Cleveland.

Cleveland southpaw Logan Allen earned the win in his 2024 debut, allowing three runs over five-plus innings, after a 2023 rookie campaign where he posted a 3.81 ERA in 24 starts.

Oakland newcomer J.D. Davis hit two solo shots to record his first homers since being signed as a free agent on March 16. It marked the third two-homer game of Davis' career and first since July 17, 2021. A's outfielder Esteury Ruiz and catcher Shea Langeliers each added sacrifice flies.

DODGERS 6, CARDINALS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mookie Betts set a Dodgers record for leadoff home runs and Teoscar Hernández added his first two long balls for Los Angeles in a victory over St. Louis.

Betts, in his fifth season with the Dodgers, broke a tie for leadoff homers with Davey Lopes, who played for Los Angeles from 1972-81.

Bobby Miller (1-0) struck out a career-high 11, allowing two hits and a walk in six innings, and Evan Phillips pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Zack Thompson (0-1) gave up five runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings for the Cardinals. Nolan Gorman had a two-run double in a three-run eighth.

Celtics rebound from back-to-back losses beating Pelicans, 104-92



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Kristaps Porzingis had a double-double, and Boston's defense stifled the New Orleans offense after a big first period as the visiting Celtics pulled away for a win.

Porzingis finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds, four teammates also scored in double figures, and the Celtics took command in the third quarter to end a two-game losing streak—tied for its longest of the season. Jayson Tatum led the way with 23 points.

Zion Williamson scored 25 points, and CJ McCollum added 24 to lead the Pelicans. New Orleans scored 37 points in the first quarter but finished with

fewer points in the second and third quarters combined (31).

MAGIC 118, GRIZZLIES 88

In Orlando, Fla. (AP)—Wendell Carter Jr. had 15 points and 13 rebounds as the Orlando Magic beat the visiting Memphis Grizzlies 118-88 on Saturday.

Orlando led by as many as 43 and snapped a three-game losing streak. Seven Magic players scored in double figures, including Cole Anthony (15), Jalen Suggs (15), Franz Wagner (13), and Paolo Banchero, who had 13 points, nine rebounds, seven assists, and matched his career high with four blocked shots. Markelle Fultz had 12 points, and Joe

Ingles chipped in 11 points.

Orlando never trailed after the opening two minutes and shot 48.7 per cent from the floor, including 22 of 44 (50 per cent) from 3-point range. The Magic led by 20 at the end of the opening quarter and never let the undermanned Grizzlies get within striking distance.

Memphis played with a makeshift lineup after Desmond Bane (back soreness) and Santi Aldama (illness) were ruled out prior to the game. Jordan Goodwin led the Grizzlies with 16 points and 11 rebounds off the bench. Brandon Clarke scored 13 points, GG Jackson and Scottie Pippen Jr. added 11 apiece, Jake LaRavia had 10, and Luke Kennard scored nine after missing the past five

games (personal reasons).

BUCKS 122, HAWKS 113

In Atlanta (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points and 16 rebounds, and visiting Milwaukee ended its two-game losing streak by beating Atlanta.

Antetokounmpo was 12-for-22 from the field and 12-for-16 from the free-throw line and added eight assists for the Bucks. It was the league-leading 34th time that Antetokounmpo has recorded 30-plus points and 10-plus rebounds.

The Hawks were led by Bogdan Bogdanovic with 38 points and 10 rebounds, and Dejounte Murray with 20 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds.

NMIBF still proud despite losses in FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup debut stint

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Basketball Federation is still proud of the NMI men's and women's teams after their losses in their debut of the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup in Singapore.

The women's team made up of Kaia Travilla, Jan Travilla, Mikki Kautz, and Madeleine Alegre played their last game last Thursday, and lost, 2-22 against Indonesia.

Travilla broke the ice just a few seconds into the game, but Indonesia went on to dominate and shut them down. Ten minutes didn't pass before Indonesia put up 22 points and ended the game with over four minutes to spare.

The team first lost to India, 1-21 last Wednesday, then lost to Hong Kong China, 2-21, last Thursday.

The men's team consisting of Preston Basa, Jack Lizama, Douglas "Spider" Schmidt, and Coby Santos lost all three games in their debut stint that started last Wednesday. They first fell to the Republic of Korea, 8-21, then put up a better showing against Sri Lanka the same evening, 13-21. In their last game last Thursday, they lost to Indonesia, 10-16.

NMIBF vice president David John Apatang said of NMI's debut, "Overall, we are proud of this historical moment for our federation and the CNMI. From the beginning, we knew the level of competition was intense and our goal was to get our teams the experience they need to level up."

He added that playing at the



Kaia Travilla tries to navigate through the court during their game against India in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup in Singapore.

local level is far different from playing abroad and said that this experience allowed the federation to gauge how much more work is needed. With that, he said, "The federation will be having more local tournaments and clinics to focus on our island's development. We need to invest in ourselves in order to achieve the federation's goal of effectively competing in international competitions."

Kautz, when asked how the experience was, said that it was a "mixed bag of feelings." She said, "On one hand I'm excited to see players I've watched and studied, even the referees. On the other hand, it's a little intimidating seeing the other players' actual size and physique. There are countries that have rotated their players since last year to be more competitive and changed their play style to suit 3x3."

Even with that, she said that the level of competition was "incredible." She said that they could tell that the teams "eat,



Douglas "Spider" Schmidt goes for a layup as he's defended by an Indonesian player during their debut in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup in Singapore.

sleep, and breathe 3x3. Not just basketball, but 3x3. I was honestly stunned with how much these qualifying draw teams stepped up their game. A lot of these athletes play professionally. Unfortunately, I tweaked my ankle in the first game, then sprained it during the second but still had to play through."

"As the newest country to debut in the 3x3 Asia Cup stage, it was difficult applying how we play back home to our op-

ponents. Beyond their size and speed, the physicality of the game is not something we were familiar with. Our goal for this trip was to gain experience and learn to change the play in the CNMI as other sports do when they leave for their competitions," she said.

As NMI was one of the smallest countries in the competition against much larger countries, they had to keep their head high and keep going, as

well as understand "what makes you competitive and work from there, study the teams/players you're most similar to and understand what makes them successful," she said. "Not a lot of opportunities come our way but the best we can do is take it in and pass on what we've learned to the next player."

Lizama, for his part, said that the competition was a new caliber compared to his stint for

NMI in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.

"The physicality level is high intensity. My takeaway from this experience is learning that we may have to make changes in our training to add strength and be strong on our lower body to compete at this caliber. The beneficial part of this experience is that we get to bring back what we learn on a higher level of basketball," he said.

ISAIAH

From page 16

Doha, Qatar, Aleksenko said it definitely did.

"Ever since the DQ I have been practicing harder and harder so this is definitely a redemption from the World Champs."

Coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Aleksenko's first race in the Junior Olympic Cup was an extremely high-speed race and was a real dog fight.

"I'm super happy, of course he is very happy and he got higher motivation for his 100m butterfly the next day. The 50m butterfly is a little bit hard for him because he is not a sprinter. Though Isaiah is very fast even in a short sprint event, top junior sprinters in Japan have the sprint event as their No. 1 style. However, Isaiah survived to the finals,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Isaiah Aleksenko is seen on the Tokyo Aquatics Center's giant screen after his 50m butterfly swim in the 47th Junior Olympic Cup.

then won a bronze medal in the finals. It was more than amazing," he said.

Results of Aleksenko's 100m butterfly event on March 30 will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

TANIA

From page 16

very hot, just like in Bathurst last year. That factor for sure played a part in not only how I was able to race but everyone else too," she said.

"The course was really fun and unique; there was grass, sand, mud, hay bales, trees, and ramps. It felt like running through an obstacle course. Overall, it was a good and humbling experience," she added.

She said that her goal was to just do her best and enjoy the race as, "It's not every day you get to run in a World Championship so I just wanted to race hard but have fun."

Now, she'll head back to Hawaii and finish up her last track season in the NCAA.

Northern Marianas Athletics head distance coach Dr. Ron Snyder, who accompanied Tan in Serbia, said that he is so proud of her.

"When I think about when she first started running for me in grade 10, I am amazed at how far she has come. This was a really hard course but she tackled it without complaint, without fear, and did very well," he said.

Snyder added that after the competition, Tan reached out to athletes from Singapore and Palestine and went out for a cool down run. Then, after all of that, Snyder said, "we went over to Old Belgrade with Hugh Kent from Guam for a 5-mile walk around the castle and back over the bridge to the hotel. Tania is an amazing athlete and an adventurous spirit."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tania Tan poses with Northern Marianas Athletics' head distance coach Dr. Ron Snyder, right, and Guam's Hugh Kent during the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, last Saturday.

CRANK

From page 16

properties to his former protege, making this bout a winner-take-all affair.

But despite that rich past between the two, both combatants said their individual competitiveness will trump whatever history they have together as they expect a knockdown drag out brawl from bell-to-bell.

Camacho said, "I have accomplished a lot in my career, and then some. However, something that always ate me inside was, 'If I could beat the man who helped in making me who I am?'" He added, "Cuki has an undefeated record that is still intact more than a decade after he hung up his gloves. I respect the man with all my heart, but at Ring of Fire, someone's '0' is gonna go, and it's going to be his unbeaten streak!"

When asked how he is approaching this bout with his former charge, Alvarez said,

"We made this matchup with the intention of showing the skill set that has been used for over 20 years to train Frank 'The Crank,' which honed and enabled him to advance and compete at the highest level and pinnacle of MMA, that of course being the UFC. Because Frank has since retired from the organization and had settled in focusing on his Blades By Crank Shinarp Knives the past year, he wanted to show that his fighting skills are still 'sharp' and that he can prove that they still are by fighting and competing against the person who first trained him, me, his master!"

Alvarez who does hold a perfect six-fight professional record confidently indicated and clarified that, although this may seem to be like an "exhibition" match or marketing scheme, he is taking this fight seriously and promises he will put forth all his years of training and teaching and 100% best effort to beat Camacho.

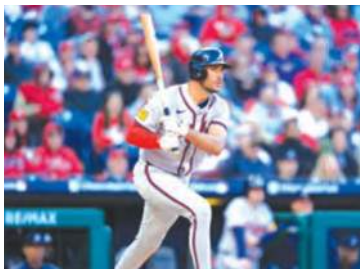
"Frank knows that just because I am 53, and just because I am his mentor and master, he knows that I will bring the heat and treat it like a real fight, because that's how I have always taught all my students to compete. We have had friendly fire matches in the past where teammates fought each other, but this is different. I will treat Frank like any other opponent and I am looking for the knock out," said Alvarez. "One of the reasons I'm called 'The Janitor' is because I clean \$@#% up, and when the bell rings on June 15, you can expect when gloves are touched, I look at mopping the mat with Frank's face on fight night," he further added.

When asked on his thoughts regarding the match, resident announcer of Trench Tech Promotions L.J. Castro said, "When I first heard Cuki and Frank talking about this being the main event, I was taken aback. You know these two have been good friends and to

be honest, some of my biggest cheerleaders as an announcer. It's going to be tough to choose a side to cheer because of how long we've all been acquainted." However, he added, "But despite all that, I'm not only an official I'm a fan. And with this and other combat sports making a comeback, this is going to be a match no one's going to miss and I for one, am glad to be ringside when it's GERA TIME for Cuki and Frank!"

After a successful first outing, Trench Tech's Ring of Fire will return to the Garapan Roundhouse on June 15, 2024. Details are still in the works, but the organization expects around 20 bouts to be contested with fighters from all over the Marianas taking part. Ticket prices will be announced at a later date.

Trench Tech Promotions also hopes that everyone has a Happy Easter and also wishes all of you a Happy April Fools Day! (PR)



Braves rally
in the seventh
inning to
defeat
Phillies.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

NMIBF still
proud despite
losses in FIBA
3x3 Asia Cup
debut stint.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Isaiah bags 50m butterfly bronze



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, CNMI national swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Kensuke Kimura, the coach's son who is the personal coach of Aleksenko, pose after Aleksenko's bronze-medal 50m butterfly swim in the 47th Junior Olympic Cup at the Tokyo Aquatics Center in Japan.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Isaiah Aleksenko completed his own resurrection in swimming after bagging a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly in the 47th Junior Olympic Cup at the Tokyo Aquatics Center in Japan.

Swimming his first event last March 29, the 17-year-old Marianas High School student and Saipan Community School alumnus finished third with a time 23.46 behind 18-year-olds Shouon Mitsunaga (23.11) and Rento Touge (23.31), both of Japan. Aleksenko's 23.46 also marked a new CNMI short course national record.

Aleksenko, who finished fifth in the preliminaries with a time of 23.87, said the 50m butterfly race was so close but fun at the same time.

"It was a fun event because of how close the race was. I

was very surprised and happy because now that I think of it, I'm basically the third fastest 18-and-under male in Japan which is crazy to think about. I want to thank God, my mom; my family; my coach and his wife; Kensuke [Kimura], who is my coach's son, because he helped me throughout the event; as well as my teammates for being so supportive."

Asked if the bronze medal atoned for his disqualification in the 200m individual medley in last February's 2024 World Aquatics Championships in

See ISAIAH on Page 15



'The Crank' vs. 'The Janitor' in Ring of Fire II



On the 20th anniversary of combat sports in

the Northern Marianas, its undisputed pioneer takes on undoubtedly his greatest pupil, as Cuki "The Janitor" Alvarez goes one-on-one with the legendary Frank "The Crank" Camacho in the main event of Trench Tech Promotions' Ring of Fire II boxing/kickboxing event.

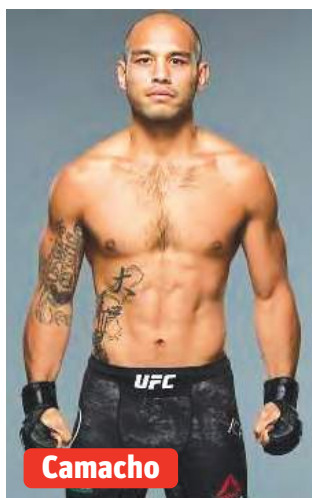
The colossal matchup brought upon by the Guam-based Camacho challenging Alvarez during one of his visits back home, headlines what is expected to be a stacked fight card on June 15 at the Garapan Central Park roundhouse.

When inking the deal for this fight, a lot of emotions swirled in the minds of both combatants. Alvarez and Camacho's path to being fight sport icons seemingly parallel each other, as both entered the sport as practitioners almost at the same time.

"Cuki and some of the boys were beginning what became Trench Tech, and I was looking for a way to lose weight when I



Alvarez



Camacho

was aspiring to be a professional golfer," said Camacho.

Upon hearing that, Alvarez in a separate interview chuckled and added, "Yeah, and on top of that he was the guy everyone kept beating up in training. But the little runt didn't quit, and became one of the gym's best students in a short amount of time."

Imparting tutelage on Camacho while training together under the tutelage of Purebred MMA legend Tetsuji Kato, Camacho and Alvarez's relationship takes many forms from gym teammates, to fighter/train-

er, and at times even a father-son bond which made it even tougher to wrap their minds around fighting each other.

"He imparted a lot on me. I spent almost as much time with him as I did with my father," Camacho said, "At times he calls me 'bro,' other times he calls me, 'boy,' but either way there was a familial respect we shared and it's what drove me to be the best at what I do whether as an athlete, businessman, and as a family man."

That relationship between the two led Camacho to gold medals in wrestling, jiu-jitsu

tournaments, and even a light heavyweight championship in MMA, along with a nearly three-year undefeated streak in mixed martial arts and a stint as a fighter in the Ultimate Fighting Championship promotion. Alvarez said, "I'm definitely proud of what he's accomplished and what I've been able to help him in succeeding. But I'm also grateful for the fact that through mutual connections, him vouching for the gym, and for us as a fighting community has brought CNMI combat sports significant attention from Guam, and other parts of the world. A lot of our competitors probably would not have had those opportunities if it wasn't for Frank advocating for us."

Aside from both looking at this encounter as a final test, the fight does come with unique stipulations. Per the contract signed between both parties, should Alvarez come out victorious Trench Tech will receive 100% of the profits from Camacho's newest business venture, Blades by Crank, his personal brand of knives. However, should Camacho win, Alvarez must transfer ownership of Trench Tech and all its

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Tania improves in 2nd stint at World Cross Country Champs

By LEIGH GASES
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Not even a week after Tania Tan topped the 10K road race of the 4th Annual NMI Women's Run, she took on the 10K muddy off-road terrain on the international stage during the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, last Saturday.

The two-time Pacific Games gold medalist and reigning NMSA Athlete of the

Year clocked in with a time of 42:13, shaving off over two minutes from her debut time of 44:41 in the 2023 edition of the event in Bathurst, Australia.

Her time was good enough for 77th place out of 84 runners—while seven runners did not finish the race.

The 22-year-old said the course was much flatter than last year, so that's why she probably ran faster. "However, we started the race just after 12 noon so the weather was

See TANIA on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tania Tan runs ankle deep in mud in the 10K course of the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships last Saturday in Belgrade, Serbia.